

Moscow responds to Bush initiative

Soviet armed forces will be cut by half

By CHARLES BREMNER IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON

THE Soviet Union announced plans yesterday to cut its armed forces by almost half as a first response to President Bush's proposals to make sweeping cuts in America's nuclear arsenal.

The cuts, which represent the biggest military reforms for a hundred years, would leave the Soviet Union with an armed force of between two and two and a half million men.

Colonel-General Pavel Grachev, the first deputy defence minister, presented the plan to the parliament of the Russian Federation. President Gorbachev has appointed a group of advisers to prepare a substantive response to Mr Bush's proposals in the next few days. That response will deal with nuclear weapons.

Yesterday Andrei Grachev, spokesman for Mr Gorbachev, said that Soviet strategic missiles covered by the strategic arms reduction treaty would be removed from full alert status. Mr Bush announced a similar move last

Friday. Soviet short-range tactical weapons may also be cut unilaterally, Mr Grachev said.

Although the Bush administration is likely to welcome the Soviet plan, Mr Bush has made clear that he is counting on Moscow to reduce its nuclear arsenal.

The Russian republic is planning a national guard of up to 50,000 by 1993, equipped with helicopters, light artillery and armoured personnel carriers. The Ukraine is expected to form a force of about 30,000. The national guards could add another 350,000 troops to the figure for Soviet forces announced by General Grachev.

General Vladimir Lobov, Soviet chief of general staff, told General Chapple that each republic should be allowed to operate its own national guard independent of the union command. The Soviet defence ministry has accepted that there is a place for national guards for internal security. It is concerned about the danger of some republics forming their own armies without any allegiance to Moscow.

Some of the manpower cuts will follow the planned merger of the strategic rocket forces, the air force and the air defence forces. This could release up to 150,000 troops, according to Richard Wolf, of the Soviet studies centre at Sandhurst military academy.

Mr Bush yesterday made \$585 million (£334 million) in agricultural credit guarantees available to the Soviet Union immediately to help them through the winter. The loans had not been expected to be agreed so soon. The administration also said it would guarantee 100 per cent of the principal on the loans to make them more attractive to bankers.

As the general was making his announcement yesterday, General Sir John Chapple, the British chief of general staff, was being briefed by Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, who took over as Soviet defence minister after the failed coup attempt in August, on the huge task facing the military leadership as they adapt their forces to the new political scene. "They strike me as being pretty formidable problems," he said.

The Soviet forces are to start engaging volunteers, or "contract" recruits next January, General Grachev said. By 1995, when volunteers will account for 50 per cent of the forces, conscripts will serve for only 12 months. The draft was reduced from two years to 18 months this autumn.

The announcement of cuts in the Soviet armed forces by 1994 clearly refers, however, only to the future unified army planned by the Soviet defence ministry, to which all the republics that sign the Union Treaty will contribute. The two million men are

unlikely to include members of the national guards planned by the republics. This will bring the overall total nearer to the three million announced by Marshal Shaposhnikov earlier this week.

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Andrei Grachev: missiles off alert status

Kinnock makes NHS poll issue

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL Kinnock yesterday set out to make the national health service the main battleground of the next election. He also promised that if Labour gained power he would institute a system of fixed term parliaments to prevent manipulation of general election timing by the government of the day.

Mr Kinnock won a rapturous ovation from the Labour conference, its confidence boosted by the prime minister's decision that he could not risk a November election, after a speech in which he promised that a Labour government would make Britain "the best in Europe", building a partnership with industry, boosting skill training and campaigning against poverty.

Shadow ministers had spent the day accusing the government of "running away" from an election after the deliberate leaking of the prime minister's decision to wait until the spring.

Mr Kinnock told the Labour party conference in Brighton that the Conservatives had started the last year by losing their leader and had now lost their nerve. The government, he said, was afraid of the people. But while it could postpone the people's choice it would not change the people's verdict. "You can run, but you cannot hide."

Labour, he said, was ready, fit to serve and to lead Britain to a better future in which it would not bump along the bottom of European league tables.

In an unscripted aside Mr Kinnock made party policy the way Margaret Thatcher used to be taunting John Major for being afraid to announce that he was ducking a November election and adding: "It does British democracy no good when government manipulates things in this fashion. It must be ended and Labour will end such a system." What had been previously a personal inclination is now apparently Labour policy.

By far the most vigorous passage of his keynote speech was on the health service. The Labour party, Mr Kinnock said, wanted to strengthen the NHS and ensure that it survived as a people's service. "In stark contrast the Tories want to take it to pieces, to make it a creature of contracts and commerce. Labour will modernise the NHS, the Tories will privatise the national health service." Reject-



Kinnock: "Labour will modernise the NHS, the Conservatives will privatise it"

ing the repeated insistence by Conservative ministers that they will not privatise the health service, Mr Kinnock argued that privatisation was the inevitable consequence of the market process they had begun. By underfunding they would drive people into paying for health care. But the British people, he said, did not want the market system rammed into every corner of national life.

The Labour leader put the health service at the centre of the election build-up by saying: "At the next election the

British people will be deciding whether they keep the NHS or whether they lose it. Those who vote Labour will be voting to build up the NHS. Those who vote otherwise will be voting to break up the NHS."

Alarm at Labour's progress on health service issues has led the prime minister to order that the Conservative election manifesto, being drawn up by Chris Patten, the party chairman, and by Sarah Hogg, head of the Downing Street policy unit, will carry a specific pledge that the

health service will not be privatised.

Private polling for Labour by NOP, according to shadow ministers, has shown that 75 per cent of the public believe that the Tories would privatise the NHS despite the assurances to the contrary both by Mr Major and by William Waldegrave, the

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Brighton rocks to leader's triumph

Peter Riddell assesses Neil Kinnock's last rallying cry to conference before the general election

NEIL Kinnock last night succeeded in putting a smile on the face of his fellow Labour MPs and party supporters. After his speech to the conference yesterday afternoon they believe he has turned the tables on the Conservatives. Having been criticised and patronised by critics and colleagues alike for so long, Mr Kinnock's ears must have been burning. In a reminder of how quickly conventional wisdoms can change in politics, the verdict round the hotels of Brighton and the evening parties was that he had scored a triumph.

MPs said that by going on the offensive over the health service, he had lifted Labour's campaign for the long haul until the election in the spring.

One Labour peer, who contributed to seven speeches by party leaders in the 1970s, said it was the best and the best received of all. Many older MPs compared Mr Kinnock's address to Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology" speech in 1963, which launched the year-long campaign leading up to the party's narrow victory in the October 1964 general election.

A prominent shadow cabinet member said that the leadership had decided to stake all on going on the offensive in mid-September after criticism of Mr Kinnock in the press and the slippage of the party's standing in the polls and the Tory offensive in daily press conferences and posters.

He added that Labour felt more confident now that the Conservatives had been forced to postpone the general election until next year since what he called their "test marketing" campaign had not succeeded in denting Labour's support.

Labour leaders now believe that John Major may be forced on to the defensive himself at his conference in Blackpool in a week's time.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

PARTY LINE



Maureen Lipman will feature in a television campaign advertising the sale in early December of half the government's 49 per cent share in BT. The sale is expected to raise about £5 billion. Page 23

WORD POWER



Gloria Steinem stopped accepting advertising in her American magazine - and turned the failing Ms. into a born-again hit. Could it happen here? Page 13

ON HIS METAL

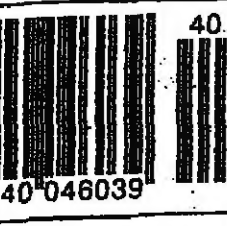


Nicholas Grimshaw, award-winning architect, is heavily into metal, computers, curves and long-lasting buildings. Marcus Binney meets him. Page 15

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in *The Times* 12-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.



America and France suspend aid to Haiti

THE United States and France yesterday suspended all aid to Haiti after military leaders toppled President Aristide in a coup. A three-man junta led by General Raoul Cedras announced that it was in control of the impoverished island (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Father Aristide, the Roman Catholic priest who was the country's first democratically elected president was flown to Caracas, Venezuela, yesterday. He is expected to accept

France's offer of exile. Margaret Twiss, the State Department spokeswoman, said: "The United States is suspending all assistance to Haiti." America provides more than \$80 million (£46 million) in aid annually.

In Paris, a foreign ministry spokesman said its annual \$210 million aid would be suspended until Father Aristide's government was returned to power.

Venezuela refuge, page 11

Pub bomb officers to be charged

FOUR former West Midlands detectives who investigated the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974, including Superintendent George Reade, the head of the enquiry, are to face charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury.

The decision to prosecute the former officers has been taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions. It comes six months after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of the Birmingham Six, who served 16 years after being found guilty of killing 21 people in the bombings.

Mr Reade and three detectives who were on the bombings enquiry team have been summoned to appear before Bow Street magistrates in London on November 19.

Police accused, page 3

Major mediates on EC union treaty

By SHEILA GUNN AND GEORGE BROCK

JOHN Major is preparing to offer the Dutch prime minister Ruud Lubbers the framework for a compromise deal on moves towards European political union which would keep open the chances of a new EC treaty being signed at the Maastricht summit in December.

Mr Lubbers and the EC president, Jacques Delors, have accepted the prime minister's invitation, as host of the group of seven leading industrialised nations, to visit Downing Street tomorrow.

Although Mr Major's plans for emergency food aid to the Soviet Union are cited as the chief reason for the meeting, government sources confirmed last night that the prime minister and Mr Lubbers, together with their foreign and finance ministers, will also be discussing what is

to replace the rejected Dutch plan for a federal Europe.

With Mr Lubbers still bruised by the protests from most EC foreign ministers about his draft treaty, Mr Major is expected to expand on the possible areas of agreement in the hope of getting a compromise deal signed at the summit. Downing Street sources said: "We can see a way through it and we will be working with him. We want and expect to get an agreement acceptable to all. We will be trying to help him towards that."

Britain's wish to see a new treaty signed at Maastricht was emphasised yesterday by Tristan Garel-Jones, a foreign office junior minister, when he addressed a joint meeting

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Lubbers retreat, page 12

Choking Greeks look to the gods for help

From CHRIS ELIOU
IN ATHENS

MILLIONS of Athenians are praying to Aeolos, the god of wind, to blow away a toxic cloud hanging over the Greek capital that has sent more than 200 people to hospital with breathing and heart problems. The cloud, known here as the *nefos*, has forced the government to introduce emergency measures. For the first time since June 1989, private cars were banned from the centre of Athens, from 6am to 5pm. Even senior government officials and journalists, normally exempt, were included in the ban.

Astonishingly, most Athenian drivers complied, but taxis with licence plates ending in uneven numbers and heavily polluting Hungarian-made buses, continued to ply the stricken streets. Delivery lorries and motorcycles were

also exempt. Despite the ban nitrogen dioxide levels reached a new record as the temperature climbed to an unusual 36°C, the official Perpa environmental agency reported. A haze hung over the Acropolis, leaving the mountains which ring this ancient capital of about four million people dimly visible through the *nefos*. Nitrogen dioxide readings in the city centre reached 561 micrograms, well over the 500-microgram limit requiring emergency steps in usually congested Athens.

Elderly people were particularly badly hit by the heat and the toxic cloud, and hospitals reported scores of fainting cases in offices and buses. Private pollution monitoring groups criticised the government for closing the stable door after the horse had bolted, saying measures should have been taken several days ago when toxic levels, and tem-

peratures, began to rise. High temperatures and a virtual absence of wind pushed pollution levels above acceptable rates on Monday.

By yesterday the city was like a greenhouse. Local radio stations chose a more morbid image, comparing the capital to a "gas chamber". No relief is in sight until tomorrow, when moderate northerly winds are forecast for the area.

Tzannis Tzannetakis, the deputy prime minister, said that the 11-hour ban would be repeated today, and asked Athenians to limit their movements by vehicle.

Perpa reported that nitrogen dioxide, the chief pollutant in Athens, reached 696 micrograms a cubic metre in Patission Street, in the city centre, yesterday morning. The previous record was 683 micrograms on June 10 this year.

"I feel I must open up as a pianist"

Murray Perahia in the October issue of

GRAMOPHONE

The Review of New Classical Recordings

ON SALE NOW

Major will tell building societies to fund debt counselling



Exra: fund set up after debts investigation

THE prime minister is preparing to put pressure personally on the large lending institutions to provide finance to pay for debt counselling services for those with serious financial problems.

Downing Street officials were yesterday briefed on the latest stage of developments in a programme to have big providers of credit voluntarily meet the costs of debt counselling.

However, the building societies have refused to contribute to a fund set up after an investigation of the problems of debt by a committee chaired by Lord Ezra, former chairman of the National

Coal Board. John Major and the economic policy unit at Downing Street are now understood to be preparing to meet the building societies to insist that they make substantial contributions to the fund.

His direct intervention will underline the government's view that the financial institutions should be more responsible in their lending policies and ensure that they provide support to victims of higher interest rates and injudicious lending.

Many agencies working in the counselling field now believe that only a compulsory levy among

As John Major prepares to intervene in a dispute over funding debt advice centres, David Young examines the pressures for a compulsory levy on the lending institutions

banks, building societies and finance houses will raise enough money to meet the growing burden on such voluntary agencies as Citizens Advice Bureaux and local council debt centres.

However, the government is still hopeful that the Money Advice Trust, a charity set up after the Ezra committee reported, will be able to raise its target of £8 million

over three years. The trust has so far raised £250,000 in cash, a further £250,000 worth of secondments from banks and credit houses and £500,000 worth of commitments.

The main banks, some credit companies and providers of credit such as British Telecom, British Gas and the area electricity boards have contributed in cash or man-

power to the trust, but the building societies argue that they already provide a sophisticated and wide range of debt counselling services in their many high street offices.

The Building Societies Association said: "We also feel that we should not contribute to paying for debt counselling for people who have borrowed from those who do not offer such services and who do not screen applicants for credit as well as we do." The building societies also argue that the proposed voluntary levy of £10 for every £1 million lent is unrealistic, particularly as building society mortgage lending accounts for

about 83 per cent of all borrowing. The societies say any levy should be on the amount of arrears involved which, because of their vetting procedures, are small compared with their overall lending.

The argument that Mr Major is understood to be ready to use to the building societies is that they should contribute to the levy because mortgage arrears often lead to people taking on further financial commitments and that the societies receive £400 million each year in interest payments from the Department of Social Services for unemployed mortgage holders.

Demonstrators clash with police after tax rebels' goods are seized over £360 bill

Protest stops poll tax debtors' sale

By KERRY GILL

A SALE of poll tax debtors' goods was stopped yesterday after a rowdy demonstration by about 300 protesters in Glasgow.

Sheriff officers were forced to call off the warrant sale, only the second of its kind in Scotland, after protesters led by Tommy Sheridan, chairman of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation, forced their way through the padlocked gates of the former police station in Turnbull Street, where the sale was to have been held. They besieged a van containing the officers and goods taken from the home of Jim Brennan and his wife, of Port Glasgow, who owed £360.

The crowd then surrounded Abernethy McIntyre and Freida Reilly, the sheriff officers, and broke the lights and number plates of the van. Police reinforcements were called and about 60 officers regained control. A police spokesman later said that no arrests had been made but an investigation into the incident was being held.

The demonstration began more than two hours before the sale as about 300 protesters, surrounded by police, shouted and taunted the sheriff officers. Mr McIntyre said: "When I saw the crowd, I was

hoping the police were right at their back. We did suspect that there might be problems, but someone has to put their neck on the block and do it."

Shortly before 11am, Strathclyde regional council, which is owed the money, announced that the warrant sale had been cancelled. A spokesman said that the decision had been taken by the sheriff officers after talks with the police. "It was decided that there was the possibility of injury to police officers and, in conjunction with the police, sheriff officers decided to postpone the warrant sale," he said.

Mr Sheridan said that, although the Conservative government was to blame for the poll tax, it was a Labour-held council that had ordered the sale and attacked a family unable to pay the debt. A warrant sale, he said, was barbaric.

Mr Sheridan, who took part in the protest in spite of a court order banning him from the area, told the crowd he was delighted at stopping the sale. "What we have done is to put down a marker to every working class family in Scotland," he said. "They don't have to be scared of the sheriff officers — just contact the federation." An application



Rearguard action: police trying to hold back demonstrators in the courtyard of a former police station in Turnbull Street, Glasgow, yesterday

for an extension of the pointing, the system in which goods are assessed for sale in lieu of a debt, has been made by the officers. The goods were seized from the Brennan's home in January after they refused to pay £360 in poll tax arrears. The family was not at the sale and would

not comment last night. More than £365 million is still owing for the first two years of the poll tax in Scotland, with about £700 million owed for the current year, according to figures released last month by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Police sanction murders of IRA, says TV report

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ASSASSINATIONS of IRA activists and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland are being planned and sanctioned by a secret organisation supplied with intelligence from a disaffected group within the Royal Ulster Constabulary, according to a Channel 4 programme to be broadcast tonight.

The organisation, known as the Ulster Central Co-ordinating Committee, has some 60 members comprising unofficial representatives of the security forces and Protestant businessmen, lawyers, bankers and city councillors, says *Dispatches*, which broadcasts an interview with a man who claims to be a member.

The man, who is not identified, says the committee, which is dedicated to turning Ulster into an independent, Protestant-dominated state, is primed with intelligence material from a shadowy, highly organised group of RUC officers disillusioned with the security forces' performance against republican para-military gunmen.

Members of the so-called RUC "inner circle" allegedly tip off the committee about opportunities for killing republicans, provide photographs and other briefing material and ensure that the hit-men have an easy get-away. The actual killings are reportedly carried out by Loyalist groups.

The source told the pro-

gramme makers: "Normally the case is that the 'inner force' would come to the ... committee and advise that the time is now right for a certain republican to be eliminated. It would be discussed at the committee, they would look at all the implications ... they would then leave it to the local 'inner force' group, or people who 'inner force' would appoint to organise."

Murders said to have been orchestrated by the committee include the shooting in March last year of a suspected IRA activist after he visited a police station to sign on for bail and the killing in February 1989 of Pat Finucane, a solicitor who had represented many Catholics accused of terrorism. All the murders remain unsolved.

The RUC last night strongly denied the programme's allegation that some members were colluding with Loyalist death squads. The allegation had been thoroughly investigated by John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridge police, in an enquiry in 1989 and no police officer had been charged as a result, it said.

Mr Stevens concluded that collusion had occurred between the security forces and Loyalist para-military groups, but that the abuse was not "widespread or institutionalised". Twenty-six people have been convicted of various offences as a result of his investigation.

Whitehall delays handicap police

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A 20-YEAR Home Office delay in creating a national computer system for matching fingerprints to records has left forces swamped by unsolvable evidence and undetected crime, according to one of Britain's most senior police leaders.

On the eve of the autumn conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers, David Owen, the president and chief constable of North Wales, said the 43 forces in England and Wales had been left to develop shared regional systems following three false starts to the Home Office's plans for computerised automatic fingerprint retrieval.

That network, to be debated at the conference this week, would provide vital interim cover until a national system emerged, some time in the middle of the decade.

Mr Owen said: "We have been left standing on the sidelines while the world has forged ahead. We have had to wait long enough for the Home Office to take a positive lead. Twenty years ago the plan was to introduce it imminently."

Police evidence to the royal commission on the criminal justice system will be debated at the conference this week. Yesterday Mr Owen said it was time the judicial system concentrated more on the pursuit of truth.

£130,000 for baby surprise

A woman who gave birth to a fourth child after a sterilisation operation went wrong was awarded £130,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

Valerie Beal, aged 45, whose daughter is now seven, was awarded the damages by consent against East Surrey health authority. Her counsel, John Ross, said the birth had affected her health and marriage but the family was now delighted with the girl.

Mrs Beal's claim for medical negligence included damages for the child's maintenance, loss of income, pain and suffering. She had the operation at Dorking general hospital in August 1982, but six months later discovered she was pregnant. Deputy Judge Simon Goldblatt, QC, was told. The health authority admitted liability.

Mrs Beal, formerly of Redhill, Surrey, now lives in Newquay, Cornwall, with her husband and children.

Drugs thrown out of plane

Five people were arrested yesterday after detectives spotted cardboard boxes being thrown from a light aircraft and discovered more than 500lbs of cannabis.

Duncan Honeyman, a senior customs investigator, said it was pure chance that the planes were spotted by the detectives, who were in the area of Nuthley, near Uckfield, East Sussex, on a separate matter. "They saw cardboard boxes being thrown out of the aircraft door and swooped on a group of people waiting in parked cars," he said.

Jail overhaul slowed down

Refurbishment of Brixton prison, south London, one of the country's most squalid jails, will be slowed down under emergency measures designed to reduce the large numbers of prisoners being held in police cells.

Work to upgrade 200 cells will be deferred and arrangements for identifying vacant jail places elsewhere will be improved. In addition, a young offenders institution in Worcestershire, earmarked for closure, is to be converted into an adult prison.

Tory choice

Marcus Humphrey, a Granpian regional councillor, has been chosen as the Tories' prospective parliamentary candidate for Kincardine and Deeside. Mr Humphrey, aged 23, has served on the council for 16 years and was previously a member of the old Aberdeen county council. The by-election has been caused by the death of Alick Buchanan-Smith, who held the seat for the Conservatives.

Mother settles

The mother of a Down's syndrome child accepted undisclosed High Court damages yesterday over a health authority's failure to carry out a test for abnormalities during pregnancy. Jill Goodyear, aged 43, of Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, said that she would have had an abortion if the amniocentesis test, which she was told she did not need, had proved positive. The award is estimated at £330,000.

Man still held

Detectives investigating the murder of Lynne Rogers, aged 17, of Catford, southeast London, were given permission by magistrates yesterday to detain a man for a further 24 hours. The unemployed man, in his 30s from Crawley, West Sussex, yesterday faced an identity parade.

Dance award

The Princess of Wales performed her first duty as patron of the Arts Council's Year of Dance for 1993 yesterday by announcing that the winner of the Arts 2000 grant of £250,000 was the East Midlands.

Detective of perjury bombing

Designer so scapegoat c

Speed challenge bang — an



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All hotel bookings subject to availability. All details correct at time of publication. Available until December 15th 1991. Stay must be a minimum of 2 nights and include a Saturday. At certain hotels, your stay can start any day of the week. Prices are per person, per night on a twin bed and breakfast basis only. Rooms at the Regent Palace Hotel do not have private bathrooms.

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Detectives accused of perjury in pub bombings enquiry

By CRAIG SETON

FOUR former detectives of West Midlands police are being prosecuted for alleged conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury over their role in the investigation of the Birmingham public house bombings in 1974.

Among them is retired superintendent George Reade, who led the enquiry. The former officers, all retired, have been summonsed to appear before Bow Street magistrates in London on November 19 to face the charges.

The decision to prosecute was taken by Sir Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and announced yesterday by the Crown Prosecution Service. The news came six months after the

Court of Appeal freed six Irishmen who were convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings, after they had served 16 years in prison.

The four who have been summonsed are Mr Reade, former detective sergeant Colin Morris and former detective constables Terence Woodwiss and Rex Langford. The men were said last night by friends to have been devastated by the DPP's decision.

The Crown Prosecution Service said that the DPP had decided that the four should be prosecuted for offences arising out of the investigation into the bombings. The summonses were served on Mr Reade's solicitor in Walsall, West Midlands, and a solicitor

representing the others in London by John Evans, chief constable of Devon and Cornwall.

The Devon and Cornwall force was appointed in March of last year to investigate new evidence relating to the original West Midlands police enquiry into the Birmingham public house bombings, in which 21 people were killed and more than 160 were injured.

The force's finding led David Waddington as home secretary to refer the case of the six men convicted of the bombings to the Court of Appeal for a second time. In March the court quashed their convictions as unsafe and unsatisfactory and freed the men after hearing that scientific tests threw doubts on a statement allegedly made by one of the six.

The two-week appeal hearing was effectively uncontested by the Crown after the DPP conceded that police and forensic evidence on which the six were convicted was no longer safe. After the Birmingham Six were freed, the Devon and Cornwall force began preparing a report that was presented to the DPP in May.

Mr Reade, of Rugeley, Staffordshire, retired from West Midlands police in 1976. He was based in Walsall at the time of the bombings and became involved in the investigation when he volunteered to help after terrorist bombs exploded in two public houses in Birmingham.

He was sent to Morecambe in Lancashire and, with the other officers, interviewed the suspects.

Mr Morris retired from the police last year. He is now believed to be a taxi driver. Mr Woodwiss retired from the force ten years ago and runs a shop in Gloucestershire. Mr Langford retired last year as a detective sergeant and is now understood to have a job in management.

Friends of the four former officers said that the DPP had "sought the coward's way out". One source said that there was no evidence for a trial, but a decision to prosecute had been taken because of public and media reaction to the freeing of the Birmingham Six.

West Midlands police said last night that the DPP's decision "does not call for a comment from this force".

Designer sobs at scapegoat claim

IINDKA Cierach, the fashion designer, sobbed in court yesterday when she was accused of making her personal assistant a scapegoat for her company's collapse.

She said her only error was to trust Suzanne Jackson who had defrauded her. Miss Jackson, aged 31, of South Kensington, west London, denies nine counts of theft involving £10,000 cash and clothes worth £15,000.

Miss Cierach, who designed the Duchess of York's wedding dress, denied at Southwark crown court that she was blaming Miss Jackson for her company going into liquidation earlier this year. She wept when it was suggested by Sheila Davis, for the defence, that she was blaming Miss Jackson for the collapse.

"In no way has she been blamed. She certainly contributed enormously to the downfall of my company, which has been the deepest, most stressful and straining thing which has ever happened to me," Miss Cierach said.

"Can't you see what she has done? She has stolen goods, a car, cheques, she has stolen enormous sums of money which I have not even brought to light here."

Miss Cierach said she took responsibility for her company's collapse. "I don't take responsibility for trusting somebody totally. She has stolen from me. She took me

to the cleaners when I honestly trusted her with everything, as a friend, as a business associate and as an employee."

Earlier, asked whether her friendship with Miss Jackson was so close that she had said she could borrow whatever she liked from the collection, Miss Cierach replied: "Absolutely outrageous. Are you suggesting I am a lesbian or something?"

She said she had been more than generous with Miss Jackson, giving her several suits worth £1,000 each. But she had not given permission for the two dozen garments to be borrowed which were later found at Miss Jackson's flat. One of them was a "stunning" black ball gown in velvet that would in time be "priceless", Miss Cierach said.

She would not have allowed Miss Jackson to have such a garment made for her, because she did not have the figure for it, she said, and dismissed the idea that she may have given permission for the dress to be made as "utter nonsense".

Georgina Harris, aged 23, who worked at the company, said she found three evening jackets from Miss Cierach's latest collection in a bath at work. She asked Miss Jackson about the jackets, each worth £2,000, and she was told they were for a delivery. Two were later discovered by police at Miss Jackson's home.

The case continues today.

Speed challenge ends with a bang — and a whimper

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE 633mph world land speed record set by Richard Noble in Thrust 2 on the Black Rock desert, Nevada, eight years ago, remained comfortably intact yesterday after a Heath Robinson challenger backfired on its designer in a muddy Buckinghamshire field.

At first, police thought the big bang which followed the unintentional launch of Richard Brown's infernal *Awesome Express 3* was a terrorist attack, either against Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat near by, or RAF strike command at High Wycombe. What they found were a shattered motor racing dream, a flock of terrified sheep, wrecked farm buildings and two men, groaning from the pain of shrapnel wounds.

Mr Brown, a machine dealer from Slough, and his friend Simon West, from Wendover, both aged 26,

were hit by flying wreckage when the prototype rocket-car disintegrated. They were taken to Wycombe general hospital.

A piece of shrapnel shaved an inch-wide strip of hair from the top of Mr West's head. Superintendent Roger Young of High Wycombe police said: "The shrapnel was travelling at hundreds of miles an hour. If he had stuck his head up an inch higher his brains would have ended up on the other side of the Hughenden Valley."

Bomb disposal experts, health and safety officials and firemen discovered a lethal nitrogen oxide-based fuel similar to that used to propel the German V2 rockets in the second world war.

The 12ft 6in orange-coloured rocket-car, radio controlled, had been taken for testing to a field at Warrendene Farm in the Hughenden Valley by the two men and filled with fuel.



Rocket man: Richard Brown before his world exploded

But before they could prepare the detonator mechanism, the contraption blew up, blasting a volley of red-hot shrapnel over several hundred yards, punching holes through quarter-inch thick steel 20 yards away.

As he surveyed the wreckage after his release from police custody, Mr Brown, a former mushroom farmer, said: "The rocket was a scale model prototype of a car which I had hoped to build in the new year. I want to become the fastest man on earth."

"I suppose people will just think of me as some old eccentric but I had to try. The bomb squad and the police were jumpy when they arrived. I can understand why when I think about it because the field is only half a mile from Chequers and a mile from the RAF strike command headquarters."

"I made the model from scratch with skills I learnt during a nine-week night school course in West Herts College at Watford. I was studying car restoration."

He added: "It was the climax of four years' hard work. I was 20 yards away when it went off with a huge bang but I didn't see anything because I had my head down for obvious reasons."

The accident, on Monday evening, is believed to have happened after a pressure overload caused the liquid fuel to explode.

Supt. Roger Young said: "It was an extremely well constructed piece of hardware. Mr Brown is actually a very nice man, but a bit of a mad professor. When we got to the scene, however, we found the contraption pointing at Chequers and thought the worst."

It is understood charges are unlikely to be pressed.



Fighting talk: Mr Brook telling journalists yesterday that he may appeal

Lawyer predicts girl's murderer will cheat justice

THE victory won by a mother who fought for 13 years to bring her daughter's killer to justice could turn hollow because of the difficulties in securing a conviction, leading QC's predicted yesterday.

In the High Court on Monday, Mr Justice Rousier ruled that Michael Brook, who has never been charged, had murdered Lynn Siddons, aged 16, in April 1978. The ruling was made during a civil action for damages against the alleged killer by Gail Halford, the dead girl's mother.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has now to decide whether to bring a prosecution, applying the usual tests of whether there would be a "realistic prospect of conviction", and also whether a prosecution would be in the public interest.

A leading QC said yesterday that in the light of the judge's ruling it would be difficult for Mr Brook to receive a fair trial. The QC pointed in particular to the comment by Mr Justice Rousier that he had applied the criterion used in criminal trials that the case be proved "beyond reasonable doubt", and to the publicity given to the case. "It is one thing for a jury to have to put out of its mind what has been written in the newspapers," he said. "But it is another to have to put aside what a High Court judge has said."

Other QCs, however, argued that while difficult, a criminal prosecution was not

A mother's successful pursuit of her daughter's killer could turn hollow, reports Frances Gibb

impossible and that a successful civil action should not preclude a criminal trial. Gareth Williams, QC, vice-chairman of the Bar, agreed that the task of a judge in directing a jury would be extremely delicate but said that juries were very conscientious in paying attention to such directions.

A third QC said that the time lapse could make a successful prosecution difficult. However, he said, the publicity in itself should not prevent a trial. In other cases where there was press publicity, juries were trusted to remain impartial.

Senior detectives met lawyers from the Crown Prosecution Service in London yesterday to discuss whether to charge Mr Brook with Miss Siddons's murder (Michael Horsnell writes). Derbyshire police, who have accepted criticism of the way they handled the case, will study a transcript of the nine-day civil hearing and the judgment with CPS lawyers.

Mr Brook, from Peterborough, announced yesterday that he may appeal against the outcome of the damages case.

"DON'T FORGET OUR FRIDAY APPOINTMENT"

"NO PROBLEM I'VE GOT A BUILT-IN ALARM"

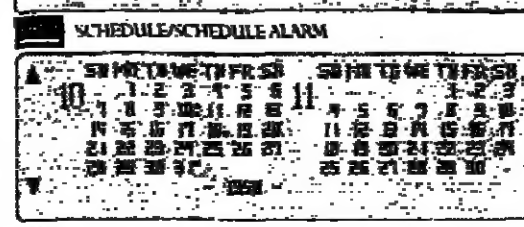
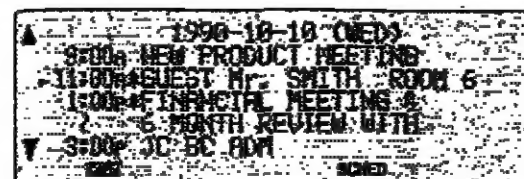
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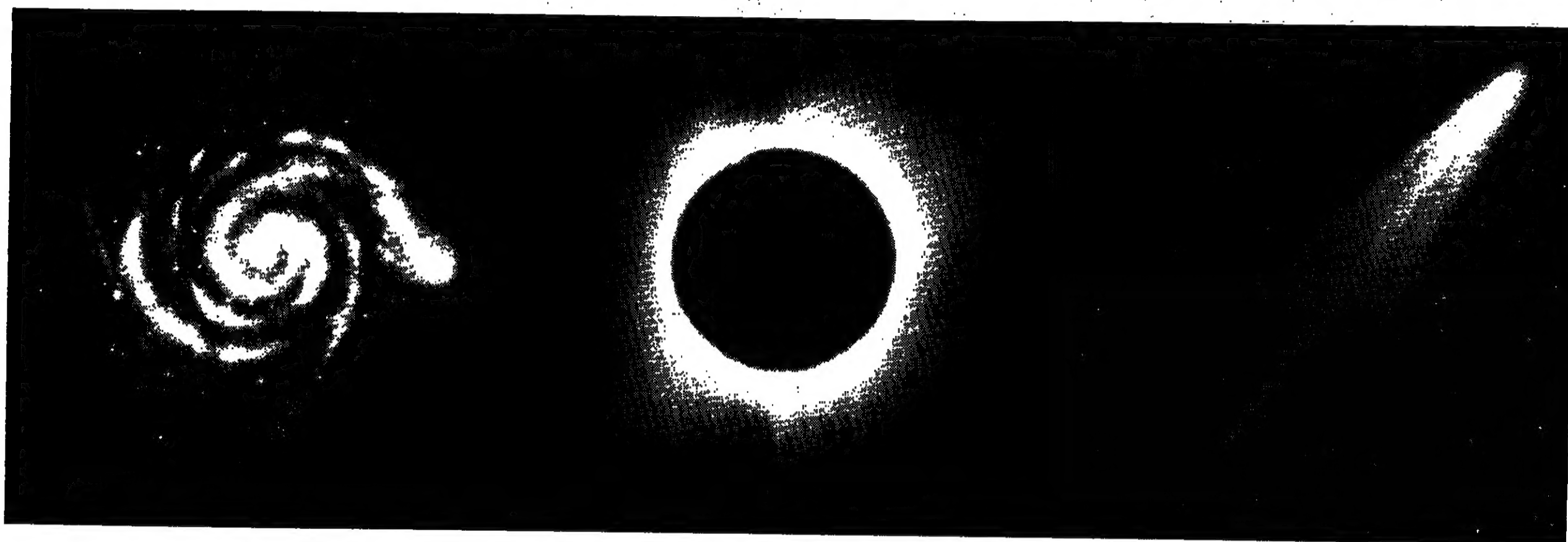
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Inflation
as exec
rises aga

MINUTE SALARY INCREASES AND

It's not

Inflation ignored as executive pay rises again by 10%

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE pay of British executives and directors increased by 10 per cent on average, almost twice the rate of inflation, during the year to July, according to the annual P-E International survey.

The rate of increase was only 0.2 per cent lower than during the previous year. However, boardroom pay showed a slightly slower rate of increase, and the number of executives receiving increases of more than 20 per cent halved.

The survey results will disappoint ministers who have been urging companies to contain pay increases as inflation falls. In the past 20 years, according to P-E, one of Britain's leading management consultancies, "regardless of how low inflation dropped, salary increases did not fall below 8 per cent, even when inflation was as low as 3 per cent."

The consultants predict: "As we emerge out of today's recession, the combined effect of delayed and previous nil pay awards, and the need to attract and retain high quality staff are most likely to increase the rate of salary awards back up to the 9 to 11 per cent band, or even beyond."

The survey confirms that pay increases in the privatised utilities, which have attracted widespread criticism, were larger than for most private

Who has company cars

Salary (£)	1991 (%)	1990 (%)	1991 Price (£)
15,000	33	30	10,100
25,000	68	80	13,500
35,000	90	93	16,800
45,000	96	96	19,200
60,000	98	98	22,500
100,000	100	100	28,000

companies. Directors and executives of utilities now average 102 per cent of the industrial norm, compared with 97.4 per cent a year ago.

A typical chief executive officer of a large company now earns a basic £140,000 a year, according to P-E. However, the study, which analysed 8,892 executive posts, from the boardroom to junior management, in 732 companies, found wide variations in pay according to the type of job, the size of company, and its location.

Below boardroom level, lawyers were the best paid executives in companies with sales of up to £100 million, earning a total remuneration package, excluding company car, worth £39,000. Financial controllers came next, averaging £38,480, while purchasing heads were the least well paid, averaging £32,760.

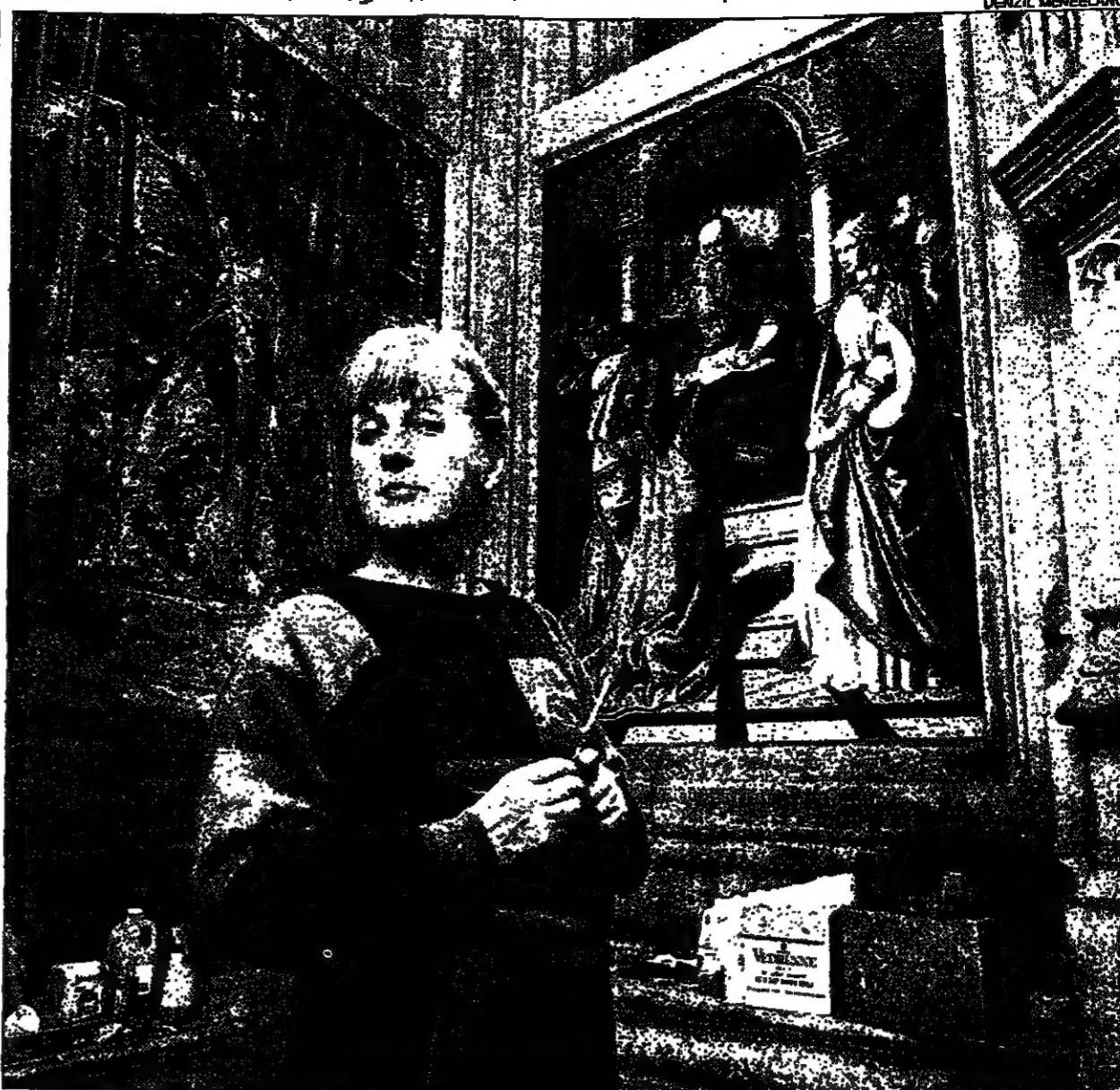
The larger the company, the bigger the salary. In companies with annual sales of £1 billion, senior legal and financial executives were level with total remuneration worth £62,400. A typical purchasing manager in the same company was still the least well paid executive, earning £10,000

less than his peer in finance. Making money go round is relatively less lucrative than it was. Although the financial services sector remained the best paid in British industry, typical executive pay in July was 111.5 per cent of the national norm, compared with 122 per cent a year earlier.

The worst-paid sector was minerals, metals and other raw materials, where executives earned only 83.3 per cent of the norm. Regional differences have also been altered by the recession. Although bosses based in London remained the best paid, earning 112.1 per cent of the norm, the South-West, at 103.8 per cent, replaced the South-East in second place, and Scotland improved to achieve 99.9 per cent. The West Midlands had slipped into last place, with a typical executive earning only 93.2 per cent of the norm for his industry and post.

Company cars have also fallen victim to pressures on company costs, and tougher tax treatment by the Chancellor. Britain still has more company cars than any other country in Europe but the survey shows that the proportion of middle managers, typically earning £25,000, who had company cars had fallen from 80 per cent to 68 per cent in 12 months. There was also a small decline, to 90 per cent, in the number of those earning £35,000 a year who had company cars. "It is quite possible that the perk car at the middle management level is being withdrawn as companies try to cut costs," said Michael Smith, manager of P-E's salary and personnel policy centre.

However, the proportion of junior managers with company cars had increased to a third. This group also had larger wage rises than any other group. Mr Smith said this might show companies were trying to retain able young managers they would need when economic growth resumes.



Brushing up: Krystina Barakan of English Heritage taking a break from restoring "Lear disinheriting Cordelia," by John Rogers Herbert, one of eight Victorian murals she is working on in the Upper Waiting Room of the Houses of Parliament. The murals, depicting scenes from English poets' works, date from 1848-51

Scientists develop a taste for water

By ROBIN YOUNG

WESSEX Water yesterday opened a new laboratory at its £2 million scientific centre at Salford, near Bath, Avon, dedicated to determining how the company's water tastes.

The company supplies more than a million customers with water from 117 treatment works, 360 service reservoirs and 6,250 miles of pipes throughout 124 distribution zones. The objective, said Gareth Jones, director of science and quality, was to make all the water taste the same.

"Taste and odour profiling of water is going to be a very

big business," Dr Jones said. "We want to push Europe in the direction of determining what water should really taste like. At present European standards simply say that taints and off-flavours are acceptable if they disappear when the water is diluted three times by volume."

Although the centre has equipment capable of subjecting the water to 500 different tests and analyses, the scientists say that human taste and smell is still their first line of defence. Wessex Water takes 80,000 one-litre samples

of its water supplies annually, about half of them from customers' taps. All are routinely tasted, both by inspectors at customers' homes, and by a trained panel of scientists at the centre.

"Though we hear from our customers on average only once every 15 years," Dr Jones said, "our customer services department logs every call and we have records going back over the last five years. We supply some of the best water in the whole country, but when a problem is found it can be a job of real

scientific detective work to determine the cause."

One recent example was a flavour of cedar wood, noted by the scientists before water from a new main ever reached the customers. It had come from a chemical used to prevent the pipes deteriorating in storage above ground. Another company, which failed to notice the effect, was inundated with complaints.

The 12 scientists at Salford chosen for tasting duties were selected after palate tests, and then trained to develop their skills.

Half of all ordained ministers are woman

Half of all ministers ordained in British churches in the past five years were women, according to a report published today (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Nearly 40 per cent of ministers in Afro-Caribbean churches and 60 per cent of Salvation Army officers are women. According to the *UK Christian Handbook*, one in two ministers authorised between 1985 and 1990 was a woman, although fewer than one in nine ministers in United Kingdom churches overall is a woman. In the Church of England, 703 women have been ordained deacons, 5 per cent of the clergy.

Sheep starved

Two livestock exporters have had their licences withdrawn by the agriculture ministry after being accused of violating animal welfare regulations. Undercover inspectors working for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals trailed two consignments of 700 sheep each from Calais to Pescara, in Italy. In each case, the sheep were given no food or water on trips lasting up to 47 hours.

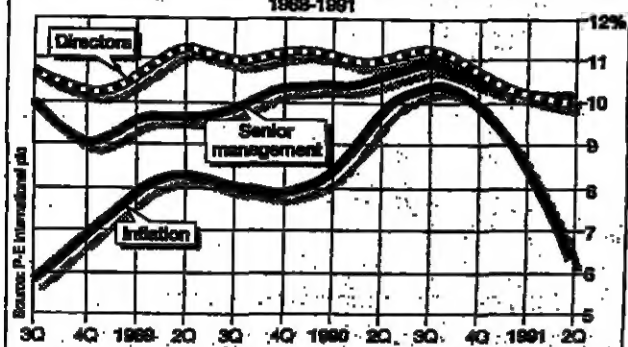
Crowded college

Students at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, are sleeping in a sports hall and doubling up in single rooms because good A-level results persuaded admissions tutors to admit 150 extra applicants. The students' union said 60 people were sleeping in the sports hall, staff rooms and cupboards. The college said that most would be found permanent places within a fortnight.

Party balloons

British crews will be flying three of ten revolutionary balloons, part-helium and part-hot air filled, designed for a race from America to Europe next summer to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America. Only four balloons have made the 3,000-mile crossing.

EXECUTIVE SALARY INCREASES AND INFLATION 1988-1991



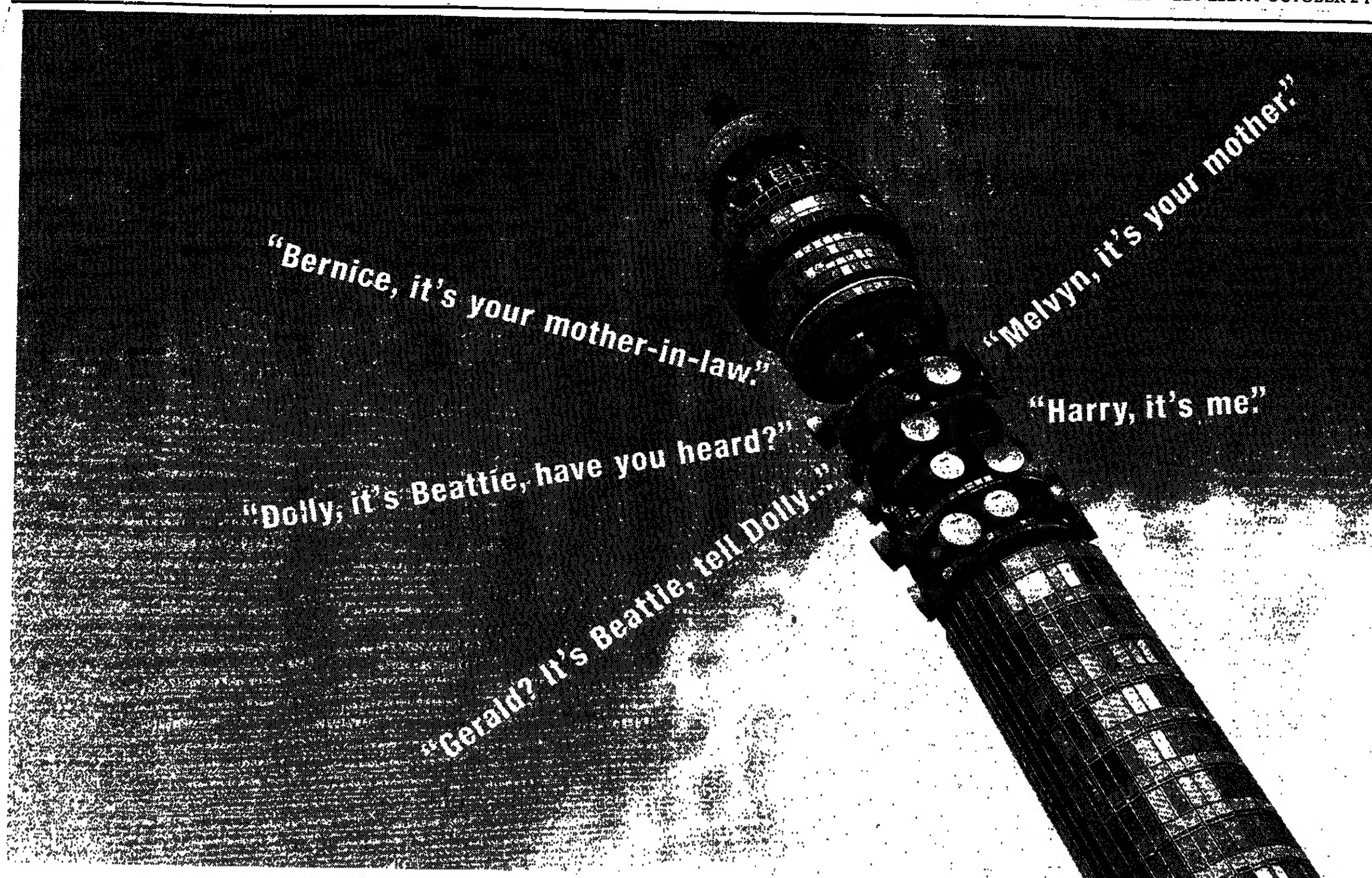
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British Cou

Teenage survey reveals availability of drugs Employment, exams and Aids worry young people most

By BILL FROST

EMPLOYMENT, education, Aids and drug abuse are the four issues which most concern teenagers in Britain, according to a survey of 14 to 16-year-olds carried out by Gallup for BBC education programmes.

More than a third said they knew a specific place in their area where drugs were available, or knew someone who sold them. Even among 13 and 14-year-olds the figure was 20 per cent. Thirty-eight per cent of the total thought drug abuse was the most important issue facing their generation.

Unemployment was the main concern of 58 per cent, and a third of those who took part reported that nobody had offered them any advice on choosing their first job — a "particularly disquieting" finding, says the report, published today.

Education and examinations were a main preoccupation of 41 per cent. A high level of interest was expressed in examination performance as the fieldwork was conducted during August while the teenagers awaited their GCSE results.

Forty per cent expressed concern over the spread of Aids and the human immunodeficiency virus.

In a similar survey con-

	Total
Well paid job	55
Married	44
Enjoyable job	30
Have children	29
Nice house	27
Have a lot of friends	27
Own business	17
Feel loved	12
Help other people	9
Live abroad	8
Good sex life	8
Lots of leisure time	7
Enough money not to work	6
Be famous	4
Holiday abroad	4
Live in the country	3
Own material possessions	3
Live in a city	2

ducted by Gallup in the United States last month, 49 per cent of teenagers described drug abuse as the most important issue facing their generation. Concern over unemployment, education and Aids was markedly less pronounced among the American sample.

Asked what they hoped to have achieved by the age of 40, 54 per cent of British teenagers said they wanted to be in a well-paid job, while 44 per cent hoped to be married. The attractions of "being famous, having lots of leisure time, living abroad, helping others and having a good sex life were mentioned by fewer than one in ten as one of their top concerns", the Gallup report found.

In spite of fears about their own future, 58 per cent of young people regarded Britain as "a very caring society" and had given money to charity in the six months before the survey was carried out. Slightly more than one in five believed they lived in an "uncaring" society.

More than half — 56 per cent — said they had bought products because they were environmentally friendly. Girls were greater than boys, but both sexes were prepared to spend money to support the environment.

Concern over tests carried out on live animals was expressed by 61 per cent, but there was considerably less anxiety over damage to the ozone layer (44 per cent) and the destruction of rain forests (40 per cent). Working-class young people were twice as likely "to be fed up with hearing about the environment" as those from the middle class.

Ownership of consumer items among those questioned was "astonishingly high," Gallup found. Eighty-six per cent had a personal stereo, and almost as many, 83 per cent, owned a stereo radio-cassette recorder.

However, only 7 per cent described pop music as "one of the most important things in their lives". That said, the teenagers admitted to spending an average of four hours a day listening to music.

Gallup concludes that, apart from the fairly widespread presence of drugs, the present generation of young people appears to be conservative in outlook. Teenage rebellion is not very prevalent, with 82 per cent feeling close to their parents.

The survey interviewed 518 young people in their homes, with quotas set for sex, socio-economic class and ethnic origin.



Little chef: Morgan Jones, aged 11, from Swansea, has his entry judged by Delia Smith, the cookery writer, and Anton Mosimann, the chef, at the Sainsbury's Futurecooks final. The winner was Jenny Docherty, aged 14, of Durham City

How a million acres could be returned to nature

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SURPLUS farmland should be turned into conservation zones and should be at the centre of a new land use strategy, the government's chief advisory body on rural affairs said yesterday.

The Countryside Commission said that up to 15 per cent of the 9.5 million acres used for growing cereals in Britain could be taken out of cultivation during the 1990s under reforms of the European Community's common agricultural policy.

Sir John Johnson, the commission's chairman, said: "If I was a farmer I might find that depressing. But it is probably inevitable, so let us make the best of it for the sake of the English countryside. We are suggesting ways in which set-aside land can be used as a conservation bonus."

Farmers should be offered financial incentives not just to take land out of cultivation but to manage it in an environmentally positive way along the lines of the government's pilot Countryside Stewardship scheme, the commission said. Set-aside land, it suggested, could be used to recreate lightly grazed downland pasture, to restore seasonally flooded meadows, to plant forests near cities and to widen areas of uncultivated land along cliffs and shorelines, so improving public access and enjoyment.

Adrian Phillips, the commission's director general, said: "The advantage of doing this within an EC framework is that the basic cost of paying farmers to take land out of production would be met out of the community budget. Our 'green' payments for particular forms of land use would come in on the top of that."

The changing economic fortunes of farming offered great scope for recreating valued wildlife habitats, such as heather moorland, in hill re-

gions, Mr Phillips said. The commission's "conservation lands programme" is one of more than 90 proposals in *Caring for the Countryside*, published yesterday, which sets out an agenda for "taking the English countryside into the 21st century". The document said that projections of a 140 per cent growth in vehicle numbers by 2005 were alarming. It suggested that car access to national parks and to some other areas might have to be curbed.

Hi-tech house captivates judges in RIBA awards

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A HOUSE designed by John Young causes the biggest stir among 36 regional awards announced by the Royal Institute of British Architects today.

Mr Young, a partner of Sir Richard Rogers, designed the house for himself and his wife Marianne Just, the fashion designer. It is a counterpart of early twentieth century houses designed as "total works of art" and is described by the judges as "the most complete example of high-tech architecture yet seen in a domestic interior".

The bed is on a suspended platform reached by a fluorescent yellow steel gangplank

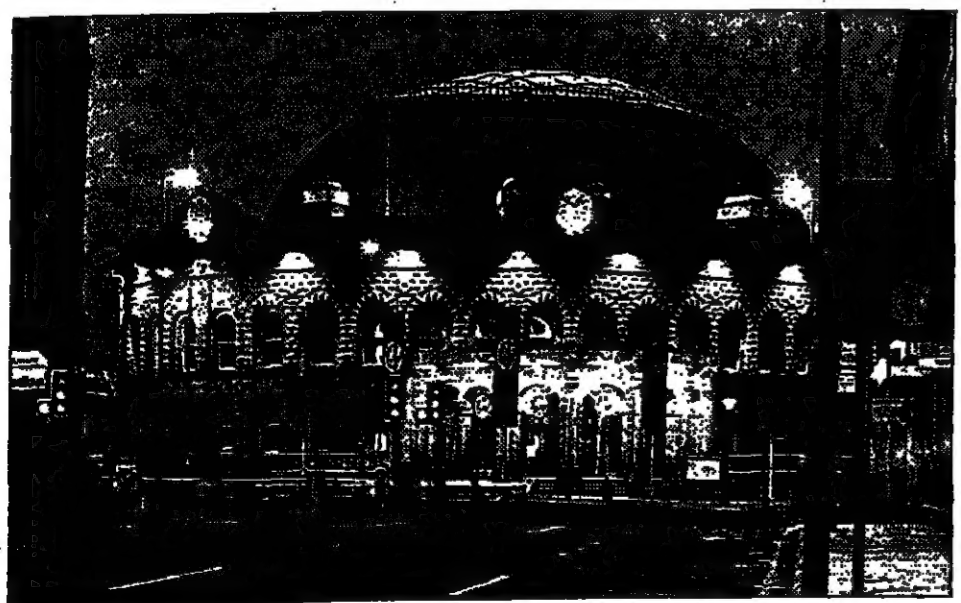
and the radiators are in the form of plate coil heaters like ancient warriors' shields. In seeking to combine lightness with strength, Mr Young has set out to transform traditional craftsmanship into a futuristic idiom.

Public swimming pools, schools and grandstands figure prominently in the other 35 awards. Three architectural practices receive two awards. Also Lyall & Storrer gained awards for the rescue and reuse of the Leeds Corn Exchange and a space age visitor centre at Cardiff. Hampshire county council wins an award for Berrywood primary school at Eastleigh. The Don Valley

stadium designed for the world student games by Sheffield council's design and build department and a new grandstand at Goodwood in Sussex by Arups figure in the list. Among new office blocks, Terry Farrell's office built above Charing Cross station in the form of a train shed is voted "a memorable and individual building of great quality".

The 36 regional awards will go forward to a final round of national awards at the end of the year. John Young's deck house at Hammersmith is tipped as overall winner.

Arts, page 15



Back again: Leeds corn exchange, rescued and redesigned to winning standard

British Council circles the globe

By MICHAEL BINYON

THE soaring international demand for English has launched the British Council on a massive expansion of its overseas operations, increasing its grants and earnings last year to a record £362 million despite the recession and often difficult circumstances abroad.

English teaching programmes brought in £36 million last year, more than half the total earned revenue of £62 million, an increase of 4 per cent on 1989-90. Such was the demand for English in the emergent democracies of Central and Eastern Europe that the council used additional Foreign Office grants to launch a £25 million expansion programme in the next five years.

A new centre for English teaching will be opened in Berlin and a resource centre in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

Last year, the council also managed some £4.5 million worth of know-how funds for Eastern Europe in fields ranging from banking to bilingual education, information technology to industrial consultancy.

Sir Richard Francis, the director general, said in his annual report that the global political changes since 1989 had opened up new opportunities for Britain. Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are the main areas of expansion, with the setting up of five new centres in capital cities last year.

The council also returned to Argentina, opened offices in Namibia and Swaziland, opened libraries and study centres in Lublin (Poland), Odansk, Lyon, Maputo and Bulawayo and teaching centres in Bologna, Cascais (Portugal), Gaza and Guayaquil (Ecuador). The council is now almost as

broadly based as the diplomatic service, with 162 centres in 90 countries.

But despite efficiency gains more than twice the Whitehall minimum, Sir Richard said that high inflation in Britain had eroded the purchasing power of the government grant. In the current year a deficit of £2.4 million has meant reducing service in 52 countries. He concluded: "If the council is to exploit Britain's cultural potential in the years ahead, it must continue to receive adequate resources to make a significant impact across the world."

This was particularly important in developing countries, where the council increasingly concentrates on British aid priorities: the environment, economic reform, human development, health and population, women and the encouragement of open government and free speech.

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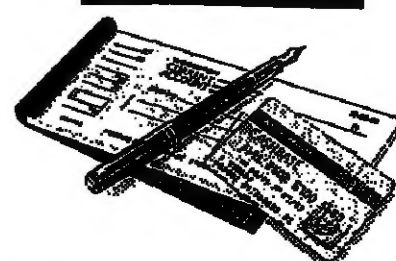
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Irish leader's decade of ruthless power is threatened by waves of financial scandals

The toughest escape act for Haughey the Houdini

The Irish premier is fighting again for his political life. Jamie Dettmer looks back at the many challenges and some disputes he has survived

POLITICAL obituarists in Dublin are sharpening their pens in anticipation of being able to write soon the final notice on the career of the Houdini of Irish politics, Charles James Haughey.

The Irish prime minister had confounded his critics by breaking out from tight corners many times in his 30-year political career. His most dramatic escape, being acquitted in 1970 on a conspiracy charge involving gun-running to Northern Ireland, still lingers in the Irish political psyche, and the British one.

While there is understandable caution among the Dublin chattering class of predicting Mr Haughey's immediate demise there is a feeling that the beginning of the end for him will come in a crucial meeting today of his Fianna Fail party.

A concerted effort to oust Mr Haughey from the leadership is under way and as the waves of backbench revolt and financial scandal continue to break on the main government party, the pretenders to the throne, the education and finance ministers, are hovering. While a no-confidence motion is unlikely to be proposed by the Irish premier's opponents at the meeting of Fianna Fail's 101 deputies and senators, Mr Haughey's ruthless brand of leadership will come under the microscope. Criticism will be fierce of the man who has dominated Irish politics for more than a decade in much the same way as Margaret Thatcher loomed over the British political landscape.

The current political challenge to Mr Haughey, or the "boss" as he is known, looks flimsy on paper. It began last Friday when four Fianna Fail

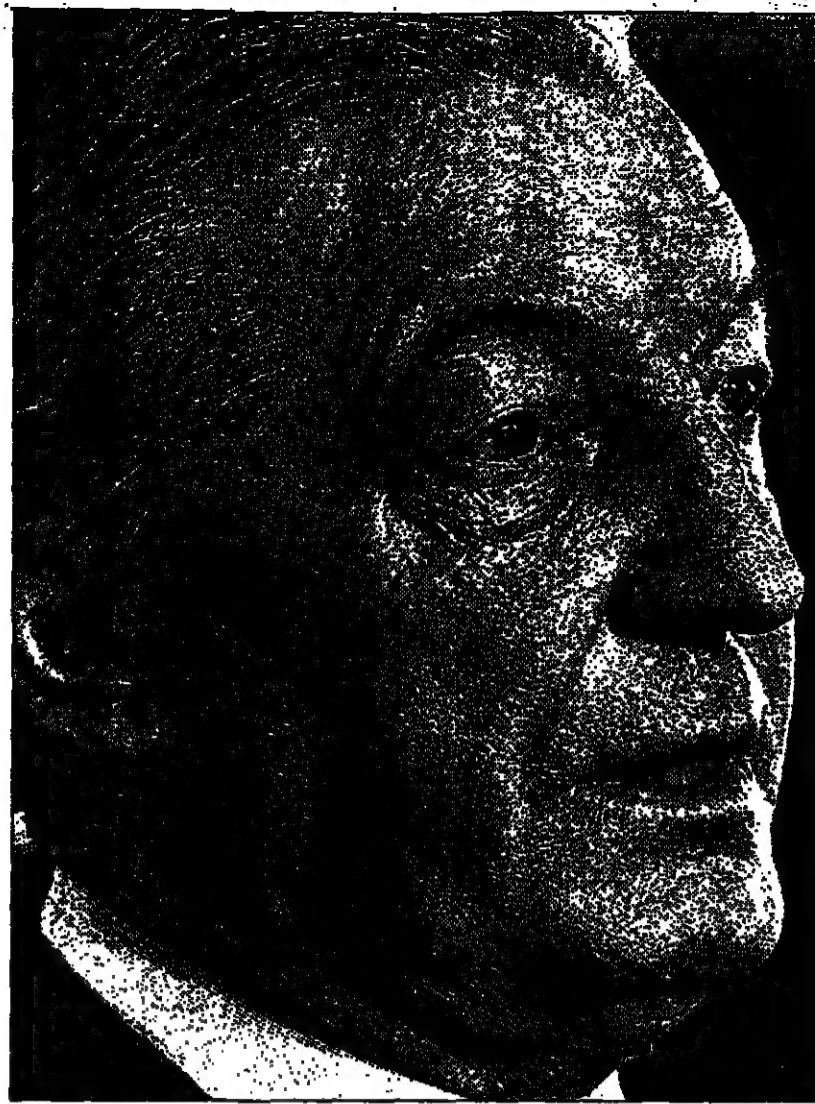
backbenchers, two of them sons of former Haughey ministers, declared that the Irish premier's handling of financial scandals involving state industries and businessmen close to Mr Haughey was incomprehensible. Two of the MPs are linked with Mary O'Rourke, education minister, who has made no bones about her political ambitions.

As with the leadership challenge he faced in 1983, Mr Haughey has not been inclined to allow dissent to gain in strength. A parliamentary meeting scheduled for two weeks' time was brought forward today in an effort to stifle the opposition.

Mr Haughey would dearly love a no-confidence motion to be put down at today's meeting. The opposition to his leadership is not yet ready for a full-scale fight. But he is avoiding getting his supporters to table a confidence motion, fearing that he would be seen to be hiding behind the cabinet that would have no choice but to back him to prevent the collapse of the government.

A revolt had been expected for some weeks as fears grew that Fianna Fail's reputation was being put at risk by insider dealing and property speculation involving Telecom Eireann, the national telephone company, and the recently privatised Irish Sugar Company. Public disquiet was also triggered by a controversy over the installation of a drainage scheme across Mr Haughey's 300-acre estate in north Dublin which, opposition politicians say, has increased the value of the property.

In a way, Mr Haughey's recent troubles began last year when his coalition partners,



Leadership battle: Haughey (left), under attack, and O'Rourke (top); MacSharry (above left) and Leihuan, whom Haughey dropped



the Progressive Democrats, forced him to dismiss as deputy leader his "dear old friend" and Fianna Fail's presidential candidate, Brian Leihuan, in what was dubbed the Dublingate affair. Loyalty is a core principle in Fianna Fail and many party members have not forgiven him.

One Fianna Fail source said that Mr Haughey was determined to stay in power until early 1993 when Ray MacSharry, his privately designated heir, finishes as the European Community's agriculture commissioner.

One party member during the Dublingate affair said: "Mr Haughey has just succeeded in forcing himself by biting off his leg but now finds himself lame and surrounded by dogs baying for his blood." Mr Haughey did manage then to fend off the hounds.

This time he may find that he is forced to bite off his remaining leg in the shape of his so-called "golden circle" of business friends.

Advice revised on breast cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN do not need to examine their breasts ritually for warning signs of cancer, but should maintain "a daily awareness" of them, Kenneth Calman, the government's new chief medical officer, said yesterday.

The government's advisory committee on breast cancer screening recommended that women, especially those over 40, should be aware of their breasts in everyday activities such as bathing, showering and dressing, he said.

Dr Calman's advice, an expansion of that issued last month by Sir Donald Acheson, his predecessor, demotes the value of breast self-examination, although more than 90 per cent of breast cancers are detected by

women themselves. Sir Donald caused controversy when he said that such examinations were not very effective and could give women a false sense of security about their health. He advocated instead greater public support for the national breast x-ray screening programme, offered to women aged 50 to 64.

Dr Calman said the committee felt there was no convincing evidence that monthly self-examination reduced deaths from the disease, or that it was more effective than sensible, regular self-awareness. "If at any time a woman notices anything which causes her concern, for example an unusual change in the outline shape or size of the breast, puckering or dimpling of the skin, a lump or thickening in the breast or armpit, any flaking of her skin or discharge from the nipple, or any unusual pain or discomfort, she should see her doctor without delay," he said.

"The sooner cancer is identified, the greater the range of treatment options available and the greater the prospects of benefits in terms of the quality of life."

Breast cancer is the second most common cause of death among women in Britain, after heart disease, and killed about 13,000 women last year, of whom almost 5,000 were under 65. About 24,000 new cases are diagnosed every year.

Dr Calman added that research was under way to assess the effects of screening younger women, and said that women over 64 could be screened on request.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said that Dr Calman's advice would be welcomed by women. She was relaunching a health department booklet, *Your Health: A Guide To Services For Women*, 250,000 copies of which are being distributed by the Asda supermarket chain. The booklet is also available through Women's Health Freepost (BF528/76), Bristol, BS3 3YU, or Freephone 0800 555777.

Mann prays every day for hostages

JACK Mann, the British hostage freed last month, yesterday sent a message telling the families of those still held in Lebanon to "keep holding on". Summi Mann said her husband prayed every day for the early release of Terry Waite and the American hostages, though he had not been in touch with the Waite family since being freed.

Mrs Mann said: "Jackie has asked me to say he is so happy to be out himself and he is praying for the quick release of Terry. He is still thinking about him the whole time and hoping it will be over very soon. People should keep wearing their yellow ribbons until that happens."

She was speaking publicly for the first time since her husband's release. The couple are being looked after in the

officers' mess at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire.

Despite his rapid physical recovery, Mr Mann, aged 77, may have to spend several weeks on the base recuperating. Mrs Mann said. She is planning a visit to Cyprus to prepare their new home in Nicosia while her husband continues his debriefing and medical treatment.

Mrs Mann said that her own reaction to meeting her husband after 2½ years of waiting alone in their Beirut apartment in Beirut was difficult to put into words.

She said her husband has gained two pounds in weight because of the good food at Lyneham. The couple have shipped away twice from the base to private rooms in local pubs where Mr Mann enjoyed a quiet pint.

Innocent man held for rape sues police

A man wrongly accused of raping an 11-year-old schoolgirl at knife-point is seeking thousands of pounds in damages.

Neville Lee, aged 38, a miner of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, spent four weeks in Lincoln prison awaiting trial, during which time he was beaten up, sacked from his job and his house was attacked by a mob. A man later admitted the rape. Mr Lee was released and charges were dropped.

He is now seeking damages from police on the grounds of wrongful arrest and negligence, and from the prison authorities on the grounds that they failed to protect him from other prisoners.

Kristopher Pohnert, aged 22, was remanded in custody by Worksop magistrates on Monday, accused of raping the girl and of offences against a young boy.

£1,000 penalty for taking car

An electrician who took a client's car while she was away on holiday and drove it for 700 miles was ordered to pay her £300 compensation for wear and tear. Mark Tipping, aged 20, of Dagenham, Essex, admitted taking the car without consent, stealing the keys, and driving without insurance. He was fined £700 and banned from driving for six months.

Farmer fined for forgery

A fish farmer was fined £5,000 and given a nine-month suspended jail sentence after admitting falsifying government documents in an attempt to win a planning permission. Tim Pearson, of Denmead, Hampshire, altered the date on a letter from the agriculture ministry, but did not realise the letterhead bore the wrong address and logo.

Cancer post

A lectureship in cancer nursing is to be established at Glasgow University as part of a £1 million project launched by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund in Strathclyde.

Shallow Bath

Dozens of boats on the river Avon were grounded after sluice gates at Twerton, near Bath, jammed open and released millions of gallons of water. River levels fell to less than half their usual depth.

Domino effect

Ron Cassidy, aged 69, of Ambie, Northumberland, who was jailed for not paying the poll tax, was released when his local pub paid the tax so that he could play in a dominoes match. His team won.

Recycled news

Edinburgh council is to spend £26,000 setting up a network of recycling banks for newspapers and magazines. It aims to collect up to 100 tons of waste paper a week.

Bomber found

Divers discovered a crashed Wellington bomber when their dinghy's anchor rope snagged on the wreck, off St Brides, Dyfed.

Level best

Enid Reid, of Coughton, Hereford and Worcester, has passed her French A-level, aged 88. She is now planning a holiday in Paris.

Fire kills hens

Five thousand battery-farmed hens have died in a fire at a farm in Dalton, Cumbria.

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Dolphin life-saver passes first test

By KERRY GILL

BRITISH scientists have proved that simple, plastic reflectors fitted to "wall of death" drift nets could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of dolphins every year by bouncing back their own sonar emissions to warn of the hazard.

For the past week scientists from Cambridge, Loughborough and Aberdeen universities have watched and, with hydrophones, listened as hundreds of dolphins in the Moray Firth on the east coast of Scotland have been deterred from swimming into a simulated fishing net, comprised of the small, ovoid reflectors, attached two metres apart to a boom line and held in place by nothing more scientific than socks weighted with sand.

Announcing the results

yesterday David Bellamy, environmental adviser to the Co-op, which has sponsored the experiment, said about one million dolphins were caught and drowned throughout the world every year by drift nets used by the huge tuna fishing industry.

"It is an horrendous way to go, like a human being buried alive, but tuna is the only source of protein for many people in the Third World," he said.

Dr Bellamy said it was impossible to curb the tuna fishing industry and it was therefore essential to devise a method of warning dolphins to steer clear of the "walls of death", that can stretch for up to 50km off Japan and Taiwan.

Even in the North Atlantic, British, French and Irish vessels deployed tuna

drift nets for up to 5km. Margaret Klinowska, of Cambridge University, said dolphins had developed from wolf-like creatures that existed 65 million years ago beside the sea. They had gradually adapted and emerged in their present form about two million years ago. Although able to flourish in the world's seas, they had not yet adapted to the relatively recent perils posed by huge drift nets.

The researchers now have the task of raising at least £150,000 to continue with their experiments and perfect the deterrent. They hope to persuade the world's fishermen to use the plastic or metal reflectors, which can be produced for only a few pence.

Dr Bellamy said: "This is the most promising piece of

research yet to safeguard the dolphins from mass destruction. We must all work together to stop indiscriminate fishing methods which every year claim the lives of perhaps one million dolphins. Anything that can prevent the wholesale slaughter of these beautiful animals must be given every chance of success."

Meanwhile the Co-op, which sells ten million cans of tuna a year, has pledged not to label its product "dolphin friendly" until there is proof that fishermen catch tuna without endangering one of Earth's most intelligent animals.

In spite of an expected EC directive banning their use from next year, Cornish skippers have recently bought drift nets to catch tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

Poll dec

Move to
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in Ulster
defeated

IRELAND

Sedgefield
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Poll decision gives delighted Labour the breather it wants

Labour, anxious to dent John Major's summer lead, has at last begun to put its general election campaign house in order, Philip Webster reports

LATE in August a worried Roy Hattersley and Gerald Kaufman went to see Neil Kinnock.

The Soviet coup and its aftermath had changed the political climate. After entering the summer in high spirits with a strong opinion poll lead, Labour had been knocked off the television screens and out of the news bulletins and papers.

For the shadow home and foreign secretaries, the general election represents their last realistic chance of returning to government. "Two old men in a hurry," was how a source close to them described them yesterday.

John Major was getting a free run on the airwaves as he travelled the world. Something had to be done to raise Labour's visibility. The Mori poll the next weekend showed the Tories back in the lead was to confirm their worst fears

about the domestic impact of developments beyond their control.

Mr Kinnock swiftly agreed with his senior lieutenants and asked them to join John Cunningham, his campaign chief, in efforts to give a wider and sharper political direction to Labour's campaigning. Throughout September Mr Hattersley seemed to be high on adrenaline, giving interviews everywhere, holding press conferences, unveiling posters.

The three men have since been meeting regularly to plan tactics in a group that effectively shadows

John Major's backroom "Four Musketeers" team of Richard Ryder, John Wakeham, John MacGregor and Chris Patten that has been co-ordinating the Tory election effort in recent months. Their role has essentially been one of co-ordination, trying to ensure that the party gives out a distinct message.

From next Monday, when they will be joined by Mr Kinnock to plan post-conference tactics on the next election, they will meet at least three times a week. Often they are joined by Bryan Gould and Robin Cook, other campaigning

experts whose portfolios of the environment and health are key parts of the election battleground. David Hill, the campaigns and communications director, and Philip Gould, head of the shadow communications agency that supplies the party with the vital polling data charting its strengths and weaknesses, are also called in.

As the speculation mounted about a November election, Dr Cunningham and his heavyweight allies, agreeing that the position had to be pulled round quickly, went on to the offensive, exhorting their shadow cabinet colleagues to force the political debate back on to the domestic agenda. The usual calm of the Westminster recess was shattered by a rash of daily press conferences. They decided to use every single broadcasting opportunity to call for a general election.

When news of the election delay swept Brighton on Monday night, the excitement of shadow ministers was palpable. The fightback had succeeded. Despite their public calls for an election, they felt that they had succeeded in their political objective of pushing the government into next year. The haphazard manner of the announcement only added to their delight. Mr Kinnock was surprised not by Mr Major's decision but by its timing.

Dr Cunningham has been holding virtually daily election-planning meetings with his communications team for the past year. When private polls showed him that he was going to win the Monmouth election in May, thus ruling out a June poll and closing down Mr Major's preferred option, he began planning for an October-November poll.

The shadow cabinet meeting two weeks ago, deliberately elevated into an election summit, drew up strategies for both a November and a 1992 choice. The latter battle plan is now in operation. The delay will give the party more time to boost its election fund, now standing at about £4 million. Another star-spangled West End dinner is planned for next month; the last raised £120,000.

Labour's aim as the months pass will be to push Mr Major right to the wire, hoping to prevent the Conservatives regaining the sort of poll lead that would give him the confidence to go to the country. The longer they can delay him, the better they believe their chances are.

The strategy means that there can be no let-up. One shadow minister said yesterday: "Winning a general election is a marathon, not a short sprint."



Hattersley: a September high on adrenaline

Move to organise in Ulster defeated

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE leadership overwhelmingly defeated moves to overturn the party's ban on accepting membership from people living in Northern Ireland.

With the Conservatives organising in the province and preparing for the first time since partition to fight a general election, a campaign is under way to persuade Labour to set up an organisation there. The organisers of the Campaign for Labour Representation in Northern Ireland argue that it is indefensible for the party to allow membership from overseas but not from the province. "You can join our party in Baghdad and Basra but not in Ballymena and Bangor," James Harris from Henley said.

The campaigners argue that people should be allowed the opportunity to vote for a party that seeks to govern them and should be allowed to influence Labour party policy; particularly towards Ireland. They also believe that it could help to end the tribal nature of the province's politics.

The British Labour party has never organised in the province, although a separate Northern Ireland Labour party did exist until it was dissolved in 1970. Peter Hain, Labour MP for North, said that when a Labour representative stood in the Upper Bann by-election last year, he had received 0.7 per cent of the vote; by the time the Northern Ireland Labour party folded it had become a Unionist party.

Kinnock promises to put Britain in the first division

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL Kinnock yesterday pledged that a Labour government would put Britain into Europe's first division, and claimed that his party had the policies to do it.

The Labour leader went for gravitas rather than political knuckledance in a speech at the party conference in Brighton setting out the programme for a Labour government which was more sharply focused than his past orations. But so rapturous was his ovation nonetheless that he then risked leading the conference into an impromptu rendition of "We shall overcome".

Insisting that after "12 wasted years" the Tory government was "stale and sour" with nothing to offer the country in a fourth term but "more of the same", Mr Kinnock promised "fresh directions and new approaches" as well as a government which would make the trains run on time.

In a speech reminiscent of Harold Wilson's famous promise to forge a new Britain in the white heat of technical change, Mr Kinnock offered a revitalised "innovation-driven economy" in which Britain would develop its own inventions rather than have to purchase the results from foreign manufacturers.

Offering intervention rather than nationalisation in a partnership between government and industry, he pledged the investment required to create a modern industrial economy and promised to make the British people the best educated and skilled in Europe.

Shadow ministers and MPs

were delighted by a "prime ministerial" speech in which Mr Kinnock never mentioned John Major by name, wasted little time on political insults and, in response to critics like Paddy Ashdown, stressed the difference between Labour and Tory approaches. The only new policy announcement was an off-the-cuff remark pledging that Labour would institute a system of fixed term parliaments.

A fourth term Tory government, said Mr Kinnock, would mean many years more of under-funding for schools and under-investment in training, "years more of falling behind our neighbours and competitors in Europe".

In a speech set constantly in the European context, he said: "People look at the state of our society and they look at our neighbours in the rest of the European community. They see the high standards of training, the quality of child care, the investment in public transport and they ask 'Why not here?' The answer is that it can change. We can do it here."

He promised sustained economic success to fund higher investment in public services, a government with a sense of purpose which would help Britain to catch up and to compete. This would involve tax incentives to companies to invest in plant and machinery, a phased release of the £6 billion receipts from council house sales to boost house-building, and the modernisation of the transport system with the mobilisation of private as well as public investment.

Listing the great breakthroughs made by British inventors, Mr Kinnock insisted that a way could be found of ensuring that such assets were converted into jobs and success in Britain, not exploited by others abroad. There would therefore be sustained funding for research and a minister for science.

To boost education and training there would be a "proper commitment" to primary schools and improvements in the national curriculum. Persisting with the theme that Britain had to be lifted up to the European league tables by a government willing to accept its obligations to get involved, Mr Kinnock also pledged a crusade against child poverty, to begin with the immediate restoration of the "real value" of child benefit and the launching of a national minimum wage.

Mr Kinnock made the national health service the chief focus of his concentration on the domestic political agenda. Despite all the Tory protestations that they would not privatise the health service, he declared, that was the way their policies were inevitably leading. Underfunding of the NHS would lead people unwillingly into the purchase of care. Those who voted Labour at the next election would be voting for the building up of the NHS, those who voted otherwise would be voting for the break-up of the NHS.

Mr Kinnock said that Labour would raise more money for efficient public services by ending Tory waste, such as the £18 million a day spent propping up the poll tax, the £6 billion spent "bribing" people to opt out of the state earnings-related pensions scheme and the £5 billion lost each year in tax evasion.

Mr Kinnock promised a freedom of information act, elections every year for part of every council, reform of the House of Lords, an improvement in legal aid and devolution "first to Scotland and then, with consent, to Wales and the regions of England". There would be a bill of rights. He ended by declaring that the country now recognised that it was "time for a new direction, time for a government with a sense of purpose". It was, he said, "time to start transforming Britain from the country it has become into the country we know it can be".

Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Kinnock: "Fresh directions, new approach"

Party starts to move women into seats of power

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR began phasing in constitutional changes designed to ensure that women have at least two-fifths of the places on the party's key decision-making bodies.

Delegates approved rules for the ruling national executive committee and the proposed new national policy-making forum. Other changes will raise the proportion of women on trade union conference delegations and strengthen their number among local Labour party activists.

The move towards sex equality was overshadowed by angry protests over Monday's elections which removed John Richardson, who would head Labour's proposed ministry for women, from the NEC. To applause from many women delegates, Clare Short, chairman of the NEC women's subcommittee, said that her "beloved" colleague had been cruelly and wrongly hurt by the party. "I am sorry, Labour party, you had to make so crudely the case for quotas

yesterday", she added. Other speakers from the floor joined Miss Short in condemning the NEC results, which removed the only woman from the constituency section and left the ruling body with only five women among its 29 members — all in the section reserved for women.

Joan Harpin, a member of the women's subcommittee, said that the NEC result was "scandalous". "How can we point the finger at John Major about him having no women in his cabinet when we have an NEC all male, except for those places reserved for women?"

Leona Lloyd, prospective parliamentary candidate for Hendon South, told delegates: "On yesterday's form, you have a long way to go, brothers."

Speakers complained of the slow pace at which the quotas were being implemented. Ms Harpin said that women were becoming increasingly disillusioned by the NEC's attitude towards the reforms.

Entertainer gives way to statesman

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMMENTARY

IT WAS Kinnock the statesman, not Kinnock the entertainer, to whom the Labour conference rose yesterday.

They gave him a reception as passionate and warm as any Margaret Thatcher received at Conservative conferences, where they go in for this kind of thing.

It was not only a tribute to probably the best speech Mr Kinnock has made at a Labour conference in his eight years as leader. As several delegates said as they trailed happily out afterwards, it was meant to be a message to the press that has recently revived its criticism of Mr Kinnock and raised questions over his leadership.

He sensed their intention. As he returned to the rostrum to lead a spontaneous rendition of *We Shall Overcome*, he told them emotionally: "You really are marvellous people. In these last couple of weeks when the odd criticism has passed my eyes, the people who have really communicated how they feel have been the kind of people who are here."

Mr Kinnock had looked confident all week. Unusually for him, he slept well on Sunday and Monday nights. The improvement in Labour's position last week had lifted him. He had slaved over his speech in the preceding days. He knew what was required of him; a speech that met the criticism that today's Labour party lacks a vision for the future and gave a clear taste of the first Queen's speech of a Labour government.

Mr Kinnock and his inside team believed he had prepared an address to fit that bill. There was no

need for the late-night rewriting in which he customarily indulges. John Major's decision to let his verdict against November be known was a wholly unexpected bonus that allowed him to write a new introduction telling the Tories they could run but couldn't hide.

As he went to speak yesterday, Mr Kinnock had the repose of a man who had come through a personal storm. His only mention of Mr Major was when gay rights protesters blew whistles at the start of his speech and he quipped: "Somebody is blowing the whistle and I think even the prime minister can hear it."

The speech that followed was described by senior colleagues as serious, statesmanlike and prime ministerial. It lacked the drama of previous occasions on which he has turned his fire on internal foes such as Derek Hutton and Arthur Scargill. The Tory-bashing of the past was a deliberate omission.

He nevertheless enthused his audience because of the clarity and directness with which he set out specific policy commitments and gave them a sharp picture of what a Labour government would mean and the stark choice the electorate would have to make.

The prolonged cheering, clapping and chanting that greeted his call to arms eventually drew him back to the microphone. It paid off. As the delegates swayed, even Dennis Skinner, the man whose contempt for the cult of personality keeps him seated during standing ovations, was brought cheerfully to his feet to join in the battle hymn.

Decisions and resolutions

Yesterday conference passed resolutions:

□ calling for improved maternity rights;
□ by 4,736,000 to 114,000 a rule change to ensure validity of delegates;
□ by 4,722,000 to 116,000 a rule change governing re-consideration of parliamentary candidates after selection;
□ approving the NEC report on a national party policy-making forum;

□ to retain rule-making powers to the conference;
□ demanding more power for the European parliament;

□ seeking a review of the new subscription collection method.

It rejected by 3,457,000 to 1,872,000 a motion calling for women to have power to elect women to the NEC;
□ rejected by 3,320,000 to 1,770,000 preservation of more of the party's present policy-making process;

□ rejected by 4,468,000 to 557,000 a move to set up party organisation in Northern Ireland;
□ and rejected a motion criticising the new subscription collection method.

CONFERENCE DIARY by Roger Wood

Neil misses his chance to show restraint

NEIL Kinnock's speech promised to be unique. In keeping with the Labour leader's statesmanlike image, it was decided in advance that for the first time since the Tories came to power in 1979 there would be no mention by name of the prime minister or any of his cabinet.

Such lofty disdain clearly mirrored Paddy Ashdown's pledge at the Liberal Democrat conference not to get involved in a pre-election slanging match exchanging personal insults.

The text of Mr Kinnock's speech was duly distributed to journalists who were left with the relatively simple task of what the trade calls a

"check against delivery". In the event, temptation proved too great when the speech reached the bit about cuts in training and education.

In one of those off-the-cuff asides for which Mr Kinnock is well known, and which aides like to describe as "inspirational", he announced that Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, found state schools a mystery — "because he doesn't use them".

Six men and women meet tomorrow to elect one of their number to the toughest job at the Labour conference, chairmanship of the arrangements com-

mittee. For 20 years Derek Gladwin, of the GMB general workers' union, was one of the conference's best known figures as he mastered a blend of persuasion, diplomacy and even the occasional threat in dealing with delegates pushing their subjects forward for debate. The arrangements committee acts as a broker in sifting and combining several hundred resolutions into composite motions and then timetabling each day's proceedings.

For the past year the job has been with Bill Morris, who is standing down as he prepares to take over as general secretary of the transport workers' union.

Next year, as the party pushes for equality for women, conference delegates could find themselves dealing with a Ms Fixit. The field is wide open, but one of the committee's best known members is Margaret Prosser, of the T & G.

□ A Conservative party poster campaign in conference Brighton has suffered the inevitable fate. The prominent displays told the local citizens: "This year's Labour conference is being held here in Brighton — unless they have changed their minds on this as well". A target too tempting to miss, although the contributions of most graffiti artists

reflected more anger than wit. Some imagination was used on a poster near the Dome where the end of the original inscription has been erased and replaced by: "This year's Labour conference is being held in Brighton. Next year Number Ten."

□ As Mr Kinnock was galloping through his conference speech another well known name was clearly not enjoying a winning streak in Brighton yesterday. In the 3.15 at the local track, Mister Major was eleventh out of eighteen runners, adding to an unhappy record of never finishing in the first three in ten races.

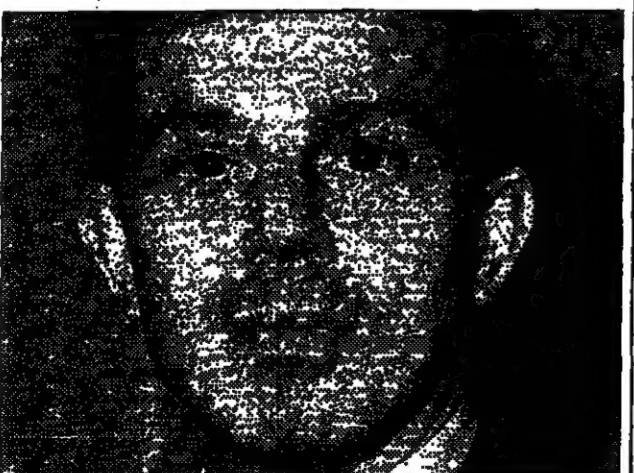
Sedgefield has something to teach the members

SEDFIELD, a County Durham constituency based on old mining villages such as Chilton, Ferryhill and Trindon, is a beacon of hope for Labour as it tries flatteringly to turn itself into a mass membership party.

A bleak financial projection suggesting a £2.5m overdraft after the general election was drawn up at party headquarters during the summer. There have been internal recriminations about the new computerised membership system which one national executive member has labelled a disaster.

The recruitment drive began when membership was 265,000 and falling. At the end of last year it was about 310,000. This year, because of difficulties of registering names on the new computer, tens of thousands have yet to receive their membership cards. In recognition of that, the NEC is to return to the constituencies the power to collect subscriptions.

Yet up at Sedgefield, represented by Tony Blair, shadow



Blair: delighted by work of the party recruiters

employment secretary, membership has nearly doubled to 1,200 over the past two years and constituency officers reckon they have only started. There are also success stories elsewhere. In Nottingham, Scott Pomberth, a student aged 20, enrolled more than 200 new members last year, and took an award as the party's star recruiter.

Their experiences will be used by party officials as they plan a fresh recruitment campaign trying to build on the lessons of the past two years.

In Sedgefield, the story has been one of hard graft, imagination and enterprise. It has been based on the premise that attracting new members is only half the job; retaining them is just as important. To that end they have tried to ensure participation through the one-member one-vote system in all the key decisions. Trade unionists tend only to exercise an influence these days as individual members, not in block votes. They have tried to make membership fun. At the monthly general

committee meetings, held on Saturday mornings in a local working men's club, administrative business is despatched quickly to enable time for a political discussion. Two hours is usually the maximum. Thereafter they adjourn to the bar for a social chat. Sedgefield has about 450 women members and half the constituency officers are female. Crèches are provided at meetings.

Recruitment efforts begin with the distribution to about a hundred homes at a time of a leaflet carrying a photograph and message from Mr Blair. Then it is down to door-knocking.

A few days later Mr Wilson, John Burton, the constituency party chairman, or other local officials return to ask people whether they would like to join. The response has been enthusiastic. Usually people are enrolled on the spot. Mr Blair said: "We found people who had wanted for a long time to join Labour but thought it was something you had to be invited into."

Debates today

The day's proceedings open with Roy Hattersley, deputy leader, introducing a debate on constitutional reform. That will be followed by a debate on rights and opportunities covering racial attacks, broadcasting, the disabled and fundamental rights. Afterwards there will be debates on law and order and on electoral systems.

In the afternoon, there will be debates on public services, local services transport and rural areas.

New UN team starts hunt to destroy Saddam's Scuds

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS a new United Nations team arrived in Iraq to start searching for up to 800 hidden Scud missiles, UN arms experts were trying to piece together evidence confiscated during the five-day siege of another UN team in Baghdad last week to identify the mastermind of Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme. UN officials believe that President Saddam Hussein took personal charge of Iraq's nuclear programme seven or eight years ago and compartmentalised it so that very few people would have an overall view. So far, inspectors have failed to find any Iraqi scientist who knows how the whole programme fits together.

Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the UN special commission charged with dismantling Iraq, said he believes there is a single figure, possibly a foreigner, who links the uranium-enrichment activity discovered by UN inspectors to the weapons design programme. "I don't want to personalise it by talking about one person,

but all these things must hang together one way or another," he said. "And normally there is someone at the top."

At present, the senior Iraqi nuclear scientist dealing with the UN is Jaafar Dhiyah Jaafar, the deputy chief of the Iraqi atomic energy commission. Mr Jaafar, who studied at Birmingham University, appears to know only about Iraq's attempt to enrich uranium to weapons grade. UN officials say they hope to glean more information from the 5,000 pages of paper, 19 hours of videotape and 3,000 photographs seized last week.

A 21-member UN team has arrived in Baghdad to begin the search for missing Scud missiles, using UN helicopters. Iraq yesterday gave approval for the UN to fly in three German helicopters from Turkey today to begin an aerial search of western Iraq tomorrow. The UN has agreed to an Iraqi request not to fly over northwestern Baghdad, where Saddam is believed to live and work. The UN team

plans to destroy 28 fixed Scud missile launching sites in western Iraq. Some of the sites, used to attack Israel during the Gulf war, were bombed by allied forces, but the concrete bases remain. Any Scud missiles found will be destroyed in the same way as the 61 missiles already discovered, having their warheads removed and then being bulldozed.

The inspectors also intend to destroy the "super-gun" and parts for a larger version found by an earlier mission. UN officials say the 350mm cannon in the Mosul area was pointing towards Israel but did not have the range to reach the country. They assume it was there for test-firing.

Mr Ekeus will travel to Baghdad on Friday to discuss arrangements for future weapons inspections. A 55-member team of chemical weapons inspectors is due to visit Baghdad on Sunday for a one-month stay at Iraq's main Muthana chemical weapons facility, northeast of Baghdad.

Husseini to meet Baker on peace

FROM REUTER IN AMMAN

FAISAL Husseini, the Palestinian leader, said yesterday that he and his colleague, Hanan Ashrawi, would meet James Baker, the American Secretary of State, soon to discuss moves towards a Middle East peace conference.

He gave no date but said the talks would be in either Washington or the Israeli-occupied West Bank. This would be their first meeting since the Palestinian parliament-in-exile decided last week to back Mr Baker's efforts to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks, while falling short of committing Palestinians to attend.

Mr Husseini said he expected the next step to come from Washington in the form of a revised letter of assurances on the form and framework of the talks. He told Jordanian radio that the American reply would allow the Palestine Liberation Organisation to carry out the duties it was asked to do by the Palestine National Council to march towards the peace process, including Palestinian representation at the talks.



Green director: Robert Redford delivering the keynote address at an award ceremony in Culver City, California, for media promoting environmental issues

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Syrian villagers nurture earthly language of Jesus

From ADAM KELLIER IN MALOULA, SYRIA

IF OR when there is a second coming, Jesus Christ would be able to find a translator, if required, from Maloula, one of the few places where the ancient tongue of Aramaic is still spoken. The language in which he preached, and in which some books of the Bible were written, has survived in Maloula predominantly because of a strong local sense of tradition.

But dramatic geology has reinforced human, and therefore linguistic, isolation. The village of about 5,000 is tucked beneath a craggy mountainside, its blue and white painted houses angled against rose-coloured hills that, through the centuries, shielded the site from outsiders and thwarted the encroachment of Arabic.

In Maloula and two nearby smaller villages, Aramaic is still taught zealously by the residents, Greek Orthodox adherents who take special reverence in their language being the word of Christ. "From century to century, from the baby to the old men, they all speak Aramaic," said Mother Superior Pelagia Sayal of St Takla convent. "It will never die."

The middle-aged nun was dressed totally in black, the cloth tightly wrapped around her skull and jaw, leaving only her face visible, and looking curiously similar to the headpiece of a diver's wetsuit. A large jewelled crucifix dangled round her neck. She spoke in Aramaic, which like Arabic combines sounds seemingly made from all parts of the throat and mouth, from hissing to guttural utterances, and requiring the use of sounds totally foreign to English. "Eel lick hoora" with a roll on the R, means "It's OK". But the real thrill is hearing the Lord's Prayer, which presumably is how Jesus must have said it.

"Oo-book pee bishmo lie cad dash ish-muck," the opening stanza sounded, the only recognisable word being a final "Amen". "When he returns, it will be the end of the world. I don't know if he will speak Aramaic," said the Mother Superior, about whether she would be one of the few able to converse with her returning Messiah. "I think he will speak all languages."

The village provides glimpses of the roots of Christianity from a time when it was

emerging as an alternative to hellenistic paganism, which did not offer an after-life to all. The altars of St Serg's church were made in the 4th century in pagan tradition - designed so that blood could drain away after sacrifices.

The shrine of St Takla is one of the oldest holy sites of Christendom. According to legend, the 18-year-old girl from the Greek city state of Ionia converted to Christianity after listening to St Paul preaching in the 1st century. The city's pagan king ordered Takla to be thrown to the lions, but they refused to eat her. He next ordered her to be burnt at the stake - but a mysterious rainstorm put out the flames. He then ordered decapitation, but she fled across present-day Turkey to Syria where, tradition says, God split a mountain range, allowing her to pass through and escape pursuit.

Jordan claims scrolls

Amman - Jordan has joined a controversy over the Dead Sea scrolls by claiming ownership of the ancient Jewish manuscripts, found 40 years ago in its then territory, to which scholars have been given access at a US research library.

Fawzi Zayadin, the deputy director of the Jordanian antiquities department, declared: "No museum in the world has the right to put them on show without our authorisation." (AFP)

Iraqi-Kurd talks

Nicosia - Talks between the government of President Saddam Hussein and Kurdish guerrilla leaders on autonomy for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds will resume in Baghdad soon to put the "final touches" to a draft deal, the official Iraqi news agency said. (Reuters)

Khamenei attack

Nicosia - Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Iranian spiritual leader, said the Palestinian parliament-in-exile had sold out Palestinians by welcoming American moves for Middle East peace talks, Tehran radio said. (Reuters)

JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK by Richard Beeston

Disputes clog road of peace

Jerusalem's Route 1 might have stood a better chance of survival in this capital of eternal religious and ethnic rivalry had it not been given the provocative name of Peace Road.

Although the shiny black asphalt dual-carriageway, officially opened by city dignitaries yesterday, might look harmless enough, every inch of its less than one mile of tarmac has been fought over by just about all the key factions in the city.

Moshe Amiratz, the city councillor in charge of transport, said yesterday that he hoped it would live up to its name, despite the political booby traps which refuse to be cleared away by even the most diplomatic city sapper.

The road was intended to help traffic flow from west Jerusalem to Jewish neighbourhoods in the north of the city, whose inhabitants have in the past had to follow a tortuous route through Arab sectors of the city. This exposed them not only to regular traffic jams but also occasional bouts of stone-throwing from Palestinian youths.

The first to complain about the new road were the Arabs, who rightly claimed that some of their lands were expropriated for its construction. Once their objections had been dismissed, right-wing members of the ruling Likud party protested that the route reinforced the "green line", which marked the boundary between Arab east and Israeli west Jerusalem before the Israelis annexed the entire city in 1967.

Their argument, that the supposedly unified city was once again being geographically divided, was successfully dismissed only after Ariel Sharon, the hardline housing minister, intervened. He could, however, do little to dissuade the next group of complainants, the archaeologists who insisted that the road was being

constructed over the valuable remains of an ancient city wall dating from the period of the second Jewish temple.

Once they had been satisfied that no serious remains were under threat, a fourth group of objectors emerged from the religious council to defend the rights of the dead, claiming the departed would have their eternal rest interrupted by rush-hour traffic. Civil engineers were consulted and the road was raised in certain places by up to 8ft, where air vents were installed to satisfy Judaism's



complex burial rights. Not surprisingly, once these groups had been assuaged, one more unhappy lobby surfaced.

The ultra-Orthodox Jews whose neighbourhoods run alongside the western side of the new road claimed that it would violate sabbath laws. "They have objected to the fact that the road will be used on the sabbath," said a spokeswoman for the Jerusalem municipality. "We have planted trees and constructed acoustic walls along the roadside to minimise the effect, but ultimately they will just have to respect other people's needs."

The showdown on Peace Road could take place this Friday evening when the sabbath begins. The city's police will not be protecting Israelis from Palestinian stone-throwers, but from their own brethren.

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Military coup ends fragile era of Haitian people power under radical priest Aristide

Venezuelans offer refuge to deposed president

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Aristide of Haiti, who was deposed in a coup on Monday, was flown to exile in Venezuela yesterday.

A presidential spokesman said Father Aristide, accompanied by personal bodyguards, arrived at Caracas international airport at 5am on board an aircraft belonging to President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela.

Father Aristide, aged 38, a Roman Catholic priest who championed Haiti's poor and who was elected president in Haiti's first democratic elections in December last year, was expected to travel on to France. He was staying at the French ambassador's residence in Caracas and was

expected to meet Señor Pérez later, the spokesman said. Fr Aristide was met shortly after his arrival by the US and French ambassadors and by a top-ranking Venezuelan government official.

In the coup-prone Caribbean island, a three-man military junta led by General Raoul Cédras assumed control. "The army is steering the ship of state into port," General Cédras said on Radio France Internationale.

Fr Aristide had survived several coup attempts since he took office on February 7. Diplomats said that soldiers started the coup by firing on Fr Aristide's home early on Monday, forcing him to flee to the national palace. But soldiers overwhelmed his supporters there, storming the building and taking the president prisoner.

The soldiers who took part in the uprising were seeking greater autonomy for the army and the dismissal of officers who had been ousted during previous regimes but reinstated by Fr Aristide, sources said. The mutineers also were calling for the dissolution of the civilian guard, they said.

Dozens of supporters who took to the streets in an attempt to defy the coup were killed and at least 100 more were injured in shooting throughout the capital. Heavy gunfire and barrages of artillery rattled across the capital.

General Cédras won praise earlier this year for guaranteeing voters' safety in Haiti's election and promised new voting. Speaking on national radio yesterday, General Cédras said he would "guarantee democratic freedoms and the established constitutional order".

He said that he "regretted the events which occurred [overnight Sunday] and the victims that they left".

Other junta members were identified as Colonel Henri Robert Marc Charles, a former military attaché in Washington, and Colonel Alix Silion, the commander of a military training centre that was once the heart of the Leopards counter-insurgency unit.



Burning resentment: Miami riot police stand guard as fires burn in Little Haiti. After Father Aristide was arrested by the rebels, there were demonstrations and looting

Bush receives lesson in retreat of democracy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN MIAMI President Bush roused his audience with his favourite line about how democracy would soon "sweep away our hemisphere's last dictator, Fidel Castro". At the very moment he was speaking on Monday, it was one of the hemisphere's great democratic success stories, President Aristide of Haiti, who was being swept away in a military coup.

Only last week Father Aristide made a triumphant first visit to the United Nations General Assembly since winning Haiti's first truly democratic election last December and declared: "Democracy has won out for good."

Next week the frail, myopic, 36-year-old Catholic priest was to have visited Mr Bush in the Oval Office, but instead — unless the coup undergoes a Moscow-style defeat — both men will be left to ponder the sobering lesson that democracy can be rolled back, that it is not a one-way street.

It is a pertinent lesson for Mr Bush, who invaded

Panama and imposed democracy there and engineered free elections in Nicaragua. He stands accused by many to his left of lauding the advent of free elections in left-wing countries only to turn his back as democracy struggles to survive in hostile terrain elsewhere.

"That's a syndrome of American foreign policy," said a senior Democratic Senate official, adding that elected civilian governments in Panama, Guatemala, Peru and other countries were in danger. "We should do more to support countries making these transitions. We don't give them enough support partly because of our budget problems and partly because our aid numbers are screwed."

The bulk of the \$1.7 billion (\$971 million) that America gave the rest of the Western hemisphere in aid in 1990-91 went on fighting the drug war in the Andes or supporting the Salvadorean government's battle against left-wing rebels.

Haiti received just \$80 million, a tiny sum considering the astounding problems Father Aristide inherited. Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere with a per capita income of \$375 in 1989. More than a quarter of its children die before the age of five. Male life expectancy is 51. Three-quarters of the 6.2 million people are illiterate and voodooism thrives alongside Roman Catholicism.

To say there is no tradition of democracy is an understatement. A former French colony, Haiti became the world's first independent black republic in 1804. But from 1957 three decades of rule by François "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier left Haiti synonymous with the worst forms of dictatorship and repression. The Duvaliers brutally enforced their will through the infamous Tonton Macoutes, a private militia of trigger-happy thugs with dark glasses and rakish berets. "Baby Doc" was ousted by huge anti-government protests in February 1986.

Envoy attacks the UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council convened for emergency consultations on the Haitian coup at around midday New York time, but refused to vote a resolution of condemnation as sought by the deposed government in Port-au-Prince.

Less than a year after UN observers monitored the election that brought President Aristide to power, the 15 council members judged that any UN action against the coup would violate the cardinal rule of the UN Charter barring interference in the internal affairs of member states. Instead, the council asked the UN secretary-general to read a statement of "regret at the violent events".

As 1,500 angry Haitians demonstrated outside the UN, Fritz Longchamp, the Haitian ambassador to the UN, accused the council of denying him the right to a hearing. "This decision is going to result in a lot of deaths, a lot of tragedies in Haiti," he said.

Exiles take tested trail to France

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

IF THE deposed Haitian president, Father Aristide, ultimately accepts the cordial invitation from Paris yesterday to settle in France, he will be treading a well-worn path that reflects the nation's long and honourable tradition as a country of asylum.

More than 56,000 people applied for asylum in France last year. The size of the resident population here who have fled political persecution is estimated at around 200,000, drawn from Afghanistan to Zaire. Only a handful were particularly prominent figures in their own countries.

The French authorities, too, have sometimes been obliged to extend hospitality to high-profile undesirables such as Father Aristide's notorious countryman, the dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, when he was deposed in 1986. By the same token, Jean-Bédel Bokassa, the tyrant of the Central African Republic, was less than welcome when, removed by a coup, he turned up in the early 1980s. Even so, French governments have been prepared to

hold their noses in the name of national interest and let in the bad and the brutal from the Francophone world alongside genuinely deserving cases. Cynics might say that possession of sizeable deposits in a Swiss bank account does not harm the fugitive despot in need of a bolt-hole: the well-heeled Baby Doc was quietly settled in some comfort on the Côte d'Azur but ex-Emperor Bokassa, arriving more or less broke, received a considerably cooler reception.

Meanwhile, as the Quai d'Orsay prepares for the arrival of M Aristide, there has been speculation that the besieged President Mobutu of Zaire may also be dusting off plans to retire to his sumptuous Riviera mansion near Menton (Mme Mobutu and her family arrived there yesterday). And over in Togo, another of France's African "clients" of long-standing, President Eyadema, is also in the sort of trouble that leads prudent dictators to keep the private jet ready on the runway with a flight plan for Paris.

Zaire regime battles to present a fresh image

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

THE floor in the operating theatre of Kinshasa's showpiece Mama Yoyo hospital was awash with blood and urine while doctors struggled to cope with hundreds of people injured in last week's riots and the constant burden of AIDS victims.

Named after President Mobutu's mother, the hospital, which does not have adequate drugs and equipment, is a symbol for Zaire which has been brought to its knees after decades of corruption and economic mismanagement forced western governments to cut off financial aid last month.

Now after 26 years of dictatorship under Mobutu, foreign governments and investors are waiting to see if Zaire can prove itself capable of handling financial aid without inefficiency and corruption under its new prime minister, Etienne Tshisekedi. Yesterday he called for aid to avert famine in the capital, Kinshasa, where communications with the agriculturally rich hinterland were destroyed in last week's bout of rioting led by the Zaire military.

Tshisekedi, who will present a crisis cabinet to a national constitutional conference opening today, has

managed to wrestle control of the crucial defence and foreign affairs portfolios from President Mobutu, whose role is now unclear although he undoubtedly maintains the loyalty of significant parts of the armed forces. But Western businessmen in Kinshasa, who ignored the advice of their embassies to flee last week in the hope of getting a head start when the economy returns to normal, are holding their breath.

Inflation is running out of control. In the last two days a bag of cassava to feed a family for a month has gone from 700,000 zaires to 1.2 million zaires (£20 to £35) compared with the average wage of less than £6 a month. Businessmen say that the new government has just a few days to stabilise before the population takes to the streets.

"Although the military have now been paid, the inflation of prices has wiped out their salaries and that can only mean that there is a real danger they will go on the rampage again," warned one major diamond buyer yesterday whose premises in Kinshasa and a city to the east were looted last week.

"I wouldn't stay near where any of the soldiers are on

guard," added the buyer who, like most other entrepreneurs here, prefers to remain anonymous for fear of irritating the new regime.

A few of Kinshasa's smart restaurants opened yesterday to those who could get access to cash but Zaire's banks remain closed. Tshisekedi wants to get to grips with the financial system before releasing money into the system which will send the zaire into free fall against the dollar. Tens of thousands are also owed wages after their European masters fled the country last week.

But yesterday, as Tshisekedi, Mobutu's longest running opponent and leader of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, promised that a new government would not be formed without the authority of the national conference, the mood in the streets, despite near 90 per cent unemployment, was relaxed. The prime minister appeared to have headed off violent criticism that he would form a new administration in a smoke-filled room with members of the *ancien régime* and continue the corrupt plundering of the national treasury which characterised Mobutu's rule.



On the base line: women belonging to a group opposed to American military bases in the Philippines protesting outside the US embassy in Manila yesterday

Spotlight turns to laws and jaws

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN aquariums are challenging animal rights groups who have campaigned against keeping intelligent sea mammals, such as whales, dolphins and seals in captivity. Some of America's largest aquariums, including the Sea World chain from Florida to California, rely on their trained dolphins and whales as star exhibits. But animal rights activists have argued with increasing force and litigation in past years that the

best place for the mammals is in the sea.

In Boston, the managers of the New England Aquarium have had enough. They recently filed a \$5 million (about £3 million) retaliatory lawsuit against three groups for alleging in fund-raising hand-outs that the aquarium kept mammals in pens no larger than their bodies, trained them by using food-deprivation and knowingly sent them to a training centre to be

"swimming explosives". The aquarium has denied all charges. Its directors are also angry that the charges have caused a drop in visitors concerned that the animal rights groups might be telling the truth.

"We are the first aquarium that has decided this kind of act cannot go without redress," said David Schumann, of the aptly-named firm of Nutter, McClennen and Fish.

China is wary of Yeltsin

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINESE leaders believe that Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, is now in control in the Soviet Union, and are deeply concerned that his nationalism poses a threat to China. The fears were expressed in a speech by Qian Qichen, the foreign minister.

The speech belies the air of quiet confidence which the prime minister, Li Peng, attempted to present in an address celebrating yesterday's anniversary of the 1949 Communist takeover. Mr Li, in a televised speech to diplomats stationed in the Chinese capital, attempted to gloss over the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union and its impact on China.

"Whatever changes there maybe," he said, "we are ready to maintain and develop our friendly and good neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union and all its republics."

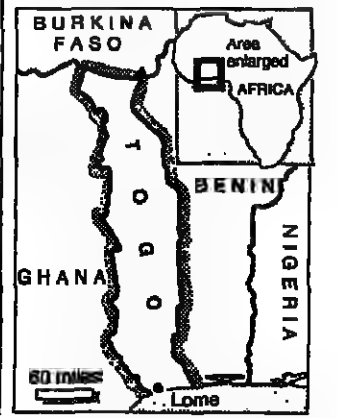
In sharp contrast, Mr Qian's secret speech, the contents of which have been divulged by sources, revealed that the leadership is worried about the balance of power in the Soviet Union.

Togo reels under new rebellion

FROM REUTER IN LOME

RENEGADE soldiers retook control of Togo's national radio station yesterday after an earlier failed coup in which six to eight people were reported killed, witnesses said. No other details were immediately available.

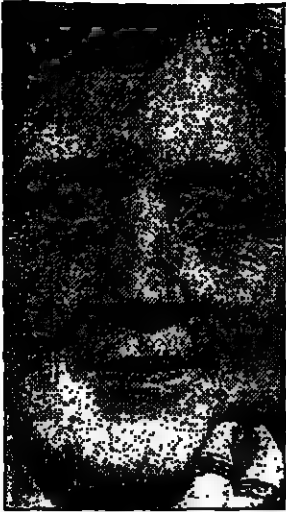
Earlier, Togo's prime minister, Kokou Koffigoh, appealed for calm in the small West African state and said the soldiers who had seized the radio had returned to the barracks and order had been restored. Soldiers pledging support for military President Gnassingbé Eyadema had seized state television and radio saying they had dissolved a civilian government.



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Decay meets Klondike as speculators storm into east Germany



Breuch: encouragement for would-be buyers

INSIDE the grim, grimy grey building where Goering once controlled the Luftwaffe, the atmosphere these days is pure Klondike. The marbled halls and stairways ring with the sound of excited voices and hurried footsteps as speculators pour in to stake a claim for part of the action in the frontier territories of eastern Germany. The building, still daubed outside with a colourful mural extolling the virtues of socialist society, is now the headquarters of Treuhand, the government agency set up to privatise the old communist system by dint of asset stripping. The whole economic structure has to be turned on its head by creating a complex of small businesses to produce the "blossoming landscape" promised by Helmut Kohl, the chancellor. This is Treuhand's task.

The task of turning the old East German command economy into a Western model is being helped by official optimism and worker resignation, Ian Murray writes from Bonn

So far it has sold off around 3,400 of the 9,000 businesses. Every day an average of between 15 and 20 more contracts are signed, with investors apparently confident of striking it rich. Would-be developers also have to be ready to wait while the legal processes sort out who owns what piece of property.

These difficulties do not daunt Birgit Breuch, the tall, red-haired Hamburg and Oxford-trained economist, who took over Treuhand last April. She surges tirelessly round the headquarters, encouraging buyers in the belief that all things are possible in united Germany. "A social market economy can't come about overnight," she believes that workers are now prepared to accept that "a free market economy means unemployment. My impression is that most people understand now that they must work harder for less money than in the west and that they can only reach western standards with pain".

That pain is worth it for Heinrich Burth, great-grandson of the founder of a little interior decorating firm in the northern city of Schwerin, capital of rural Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The shop became an institution but in 1951 the communist regime nationalised the business and the family were given ten minutes to hand over the keys and leave. The day after the wall came down in November 1989, a van loaded with Burth carpets and wallpaper was sent in to start up the business again and two months later negotiations to take over the old family shop began.

There has to be long-term optimism too at a building company which has been set up at Wittstock in Brandenburg, one of the 500 or so businesses described in Treuhand jargon as an "MBB" (management buy out) where the workforce have formed their own company rather than see outside investors cream off the profits. The driving force is Uwe Schödel, just 33 and with only a communist education and glimpses of western television to guide him, he persuaded two of his workmates to form a private company to hold together the skilled labour force to be ready to take advantage of the building boom that must come.

Unemployed army, page 25

Kohl: time still for his own landscape to bloom

Republics start moves for Soviet economic tie

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

THE Soviet republics yesterday took an initial step towards putting together the union's broken pieces by agreeing in principle to form an economic association.

The need for massive Western help in overhauling the Soviet farm sector was underlined by a team of British manufacturers mandated by John Major to examine the food industry. Sir Ronald McIntosh, the delegation leader, said that contrary to conventional wisdom, the Soviet Union's problem lay not just in poor distribution and storage, but also in low output.

Tbilisi to try divide and rule

Tbilisi - Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian president, appears to have made a strategic retreat from his confrontational position in the republic (Robert Seely writes). Government policy now is to orchestrate large-scale peaceful demonstrations aimed at dividing opposition forces, married by convenience rather than love, and by offering an amnesty to all who lay down their weapons before midday tomorrow.

Despite the lack of formal communication between the two camps yesterday, private talks continued and yesterday afternoon, Tbilisi's main thoroughfare, Rustaveli Prospekt, was opened for the first time in a month. However, rebel leaders remained defiant. Dzhanusg Charviani, an opposition spokesman, said: "They have nothing new to say."

Skinheads held

Bonn - Five British and two German skinheads were arrested at Cottbus, Brandenburg, on Monday night after a young German was stabbed and seriously wounded in a skirmish with right-wing thugs. A state official said the stabbing happened after around 15 skinheads with flick knives and tear gas chased seven young Germans.

Mafia sackings

Rome - The Italian government sacked the administrations of 18 municipalities in the south because they have links to the Mafia. New elections will be held except in Patti, Calabria, where they have been postponed indefinitely because no one dares run against Mafia politicians.

Chaumet change

Yesterday, *The Times* published a report of the trial in Paris of the former owners of the House of Chaumet, the jewellers, and we wish to clarify that the Chaumet brothers are no longer connected with the business. The assets of Chaumet were acquired in November 1987 by Investcorp, the investment bank, and the business is trading successfully under new management.

Geared for safety

Paris - Norwegians edge the Finns by a nose as the most careful drivers in Europe, while Italians are the worst, according to a report released by the French insurers' search centre, the CDI. (AFP)

Lubbers licks EC treaty wounds

From George Brock in Brussels

RUUD Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, conferred yesterday with Hans van den Broek, his foreign minister, on how to pick up the pieces after EC foreign ministers rejected their draft for federal union by 10-2 on Monday. His government was mauled by yesterday morning's Dutch papers.

"One of the worst political blunders ever," thundered the conservative *De Telegraaf*. But with the return to the Luxembourg treaty draft, the pressure on Britain also returns. Jacques Delors, the federalist president of the European Commission, has treated the whole fiasco over the Dutch text in a lofty "much ado about nothing" manner and pointed out that agreement on several key points is in sight.

The outlines of a monetary union treaty are nearly all agreed. Norman Lamont, the chancellor, plainly believes his officials have helped write a treaty which both keeps Britain in and allows it to stay out. No such flexibility exists in the talks on political union. There has so far been no real meeting of minds - let alone the unanimity which would allow treaty drafting - on several questions of principle.

The EC has not agreed how to handle foreign policy. Thanks to the disappearance of the Dutch text, foreign policy is unlikely to be integrated into the central system. But most EC countries want, or say they want, majority voting in foreign policy. Britain wants co-operation decided by unanimity. Should the EC have a defence policy and armed forces independent of the United States? Britain, Germany and France have come nowhere near agreeing on this question, which will also confront them at the Nato summit next month.

Britain will probably concede that the EC should start to make policy in areas where Brussels has no law-making power at the moment. Some extension of the EC's power to set community-wide standards for education, health, welfare and transport is likely. But the extension of majority voting is a far more sensitive issue. On that and on new powers for the European parliament, Britain does not look set to yield very much.

Although the Maastricht summit does not open until December 9, the effective deadline for settling contentious points is the middle of November, so that the treaty text can be completely ready for Maastricht. The Dutch government has scheduled a three-day meeting of EC foreign ministers in the North Sea resort of Noordwijk on November 13. That meeting will decide the treaty's fate.

Diary, page 16

Leading article, page 17

Major's invitation, page 1



Preservative party: radical German Greens in Berlin draping a banner reading "No power" on a statue of Lenin to protest at its planned demolition by the city

First Swedish woman Speaker proposes Bildt to head cabinet

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Speaker of the Swedish parliament formally proposed the Conservative leader, Carl Bildt, as the country's new prime minister yesterday.

Mr Bildt has been negotiating with the Liberal, Centre and Christian Democrat parties on a four-party government to replace the long-ruling Social Democrats, who suffered a crushing defeat in elections on September 15.

Ingemar Troedsson, a Conservative, became the first woman Speaker in the history of Sweden's parliament on Monday. The 349-seat Riksdag voted 184-150 to install her in place of Thage Peterson, a widely respected Social Democrat.

The office ranks second after the monarch in Swedish diplomatic protocol and plays an important constitutional role in proposing a prime minister.

A parliamentary vote on Mr

Bildt as the new prime minister is expected tomorrow. He has said he hopes to present a new government and a policy statement to the assembly on Friday.

The new Speaker, proposing Mr Bildt as prime minister, said he intended to form a government of his Moderate party, the Liberal party, the Centre party and Christian Democrats. Together they will have 170 seats in the House, five short of a majority. To pass legislation, they will have to depend on the seven-month-old New Democracy party, which is considered right-wing and has been accused by some

opponents of racism. New Democracy has 25 seats.

The Social Democratic party and its ally, the formerly communist Left party, have 154 seats.

The Speaker said that she had accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson.

● No land talks: Paavo Vayrynen, the Finnish foreign minister, said that Finland would not propose talks about the return of land lost to the Soviet Union in the second world war as neither the Soviet Union nor Russia was ready for such negotiations.

Yugoslav army threatens to target civilians

From Christopher Walker in Zagreb

HEAVY fighting intensified in various areas of Croatia yesterday after the authorities in Zagreb dismissed a Yugoslav army ultimatum threatening attacks on civilian targets.

Dubrovnik, sometimes described as "the jewel of the Adriatic", and villages around the historic port city were hit in the flare-up, which observers said was bringing the region closer to full-scale civil war despite a nominal ceasefire negotiated 11 days ago.

The fighting included mortar, tank, artillery, naval and air attacks. Some of the fiercest exchanges took place in the eastern town of Vukovar. More than 300 army vehicles, predominantly manned by Serbs, arrived in the region on Monday to assist the besieged army barracks there. Among other key areas under fire were the outskirts of Zagreb and the central town of Karlovac.

Gjoko Susak, Croatia's defence minister, angrily rejected the army's claim that it would widen the offensive and retaliate against civilian targets if resistance against its besieged military installations in the breakaway republic continued. "Such an ultimatum Hitler never sent," Mr Susak said after holding emergency talks with Dr Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president. "They are saying we are provoking them. They are bombarding from Dubrovnik to Vukovar, attacking with tanks from 50 different places, and on the basis of that they send an ultimatum."

He said that the Zagreb government would reply in writing to the Belgrade communiqué, which stated: "For each barracks attacked and occupied the army will destroy vital civilian targets in the town where the barracks is located." A senior Yugoslav general, Andrija Raseta, commander of the fifth army district covering Croatia, later said that the high command in Belgrade was ready to order attacks by the air force against factories, electrical installations, shipyards and other targets if there were more attacks on the besieged bases.

Mr Susak said that Croatia's response to the ultimatum - the first direct threat by the army against civilians since Croatia's declaration of independence started the violence - would again offer talks if the army agreed to leave its barracks and withdraw from Croatian soil.

To date, the use of the Yugoslav air force has been limited. The Croatian forces have some anti-aircraft weaponry, including hand-held

ground to air missiles, but according to Western observers, would face overwhelming odds if Yugoslav war planes were to be widely deployed.

The spread of the fighting, the worst since the latest ceasefire came into effect and permitted a reconvening of the European Community's peace conference, was accompanied by increasing political turmoil inside the Yugoslav federation. The Croatian authorities claimed the army was the only part of Yugoslavia still functioning.

In Belgrade, the collective Yugoslav presidency went into session with only five of the eight members present. Stipe Mesic, the Croatian chairman, claimed he was unable to reach the city. The representatives of Slovenia, which has also declared independence, and Bosnia-Herzegovina were also absent.

Thatcher inspects Poland

From Roger Boyes in Warsaw

MARGARET Thatcher arrived yesterday in a Poland of economic extremes, where impoverished pensioners eat cat food while the rich shop at Christian Dior and Benetton.

Mrs Thatcher's free market beliefs, fervently applied here by the government, are the focus of election campaigning getting underway. She is expected to show support for her old prime minister, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, visit privatised companies and encourage young businessmen. Unlike the Princess Royal, who follows a few days later, she will not be inspecting the long-dole queues.

It is Mr Bielecki's bad luck that Mrs Thatcher is visiting a day after swingeing budget cuts have been put into effect. Certainly the chanting teachers marching through Lodz will strike a chord with the former education secretary, once dubbed "milk snatcher Thatcher". Polish teachers have more to complain about than the ending of free school milk. Four classes a week have been cut from the school timetable and all overtime has been cancelled. Teachers' pay has sunk to one million zlotys a month, or £57.

Roger Boyes, page 16

KGB retreads take commercial break

From Charles Bremner in Moscow

LIFE has surely changed in Russia when KGB operatives are reduced to advertising their services on television. In nightly commercials, a private security firm has offered former KGB officers "experienced in the ways of Western intelligence services".

At least these former guardians of the Soviet state have found work. Thanks to the failed coup and the collapse of the communist state, unemployment has replaced the CIA as the biggest threat in the life of the average officer.

In the past week, President Gorbachev has placed the Moscow area KGB under the direction of Boris Yeltsin's new Russian security service and Vadim Bakatin, the liberal new KGB boss. He has disbanded the old Directorate Z, the section for the "protection of the Soviet

constitution". A KGB source said the department which eavesdrops on telephones would be cut by a third of its workforce. Surveillance would in future be conducted only with the permission of prosecutors. If the new edicts are followed, some 20 million informers, an official figure, will lose their part-time jobs.

On Monday, the First Directorate, the elite foreign intelligence wing, was put under the direction of Yevgeni Primakov, a confidant of Mr Gorbachev. His orders are to strip down the bureaucracy of Moscow centre, as it is known to all spy novel readers. Mr Primakov says the old cloak-and-dagger side of the spy business will stay, but the agency will be "democratised and opened as much as possible". Inside the Lubyanka, the vast, yellow-washed fortress

home of the organisation, Lieutenant-Colonel Oleg Tsaryov, the KGB's urban new information officer, said: "Our first feeling was bewilderment when we learnt that the former chairman overstepped the law. Of course it has to be proved in court yet, but we have very bitter feelings about that. Then morale was pretty low for some time. Now it's clear that... the majority of young officers will stay."

The organisation will lose between 20 and 30 per cent of its personnel, he said. According to the colonel, who served as a "journalist" in London in the late 1970s, Mr Kravchukov acted virtually alone and those lower officers who followed his orders would not be punished. There were, however, a few exceptions. The Russian supreme soviet yesterday voted unanimously to ap-

prove the prosecution of Yevgeni Ageyev, the KGB deputy chairman who, according to prosecutors, ordered regional commanders to halt publication of information harmful to the coup leaders.

Colonel Tsaryov's breezy explanations give little impression of any conversion in the heart of the KGB. Those who pursued dissidents in the old days were just professionals doing their duty and would now turn their hand to other matters.

Concern that the old KGB is being left intact is widespread among Russian democratic reformers. In one of its main news broadcasts, Russian Federation television contrasted the restructuring of the KGB with the way in which the new democracies of Eastern Europe had abolished their communist security services.



Counting down: Franz Vlahobek, due today to become Austria's first man in space in a joint venture with the Soviet Union, at the Balkonair mission centre yesterday

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When the American magazine *Ms.* felt its editorial integrity was being threatened by advertisers' demands, it dropped all advertising and raised its cover price. Melinda Wittstock wonders whether such a declaration of independence could work in Britain

When *Ms.*, the American feminist magazine, published a front-page exclusive on ousted Soviet feminist in 1980, it won three journalism awards. But such journalistic glory, as *Ms.* found to its cost, had little to do with attracting advertisers. According to *Ms.*, a cosmetic company cancelled a scheduled advertising campaign in the magazine because the Soviet women pictured on the glossy cover were not wearing make-up.

A small report in *Ms.* about a US congressional hearing into the alleged carcinogenic properties of chemicals used in hair dyes that are absorbed into the skin also cost the magazine a sizeable portion of advertising revenue, it claims, this time from a manufacturer of hair products.

Even an attempt by Gloria Steinem, the founding editor of *Ms.*, to persuade the president of a leading cosmetics company to rescue the magazine from closure with one year of advertisements for just three or four products, resulted in failure. Ms Steinem says she was told that *Ms.* was not appropriate for the company's products because they were selling "a kept-woman mentality".

These revelations were contained in Ms Steinem's tell-all memoir for *Ms.* called "Sex, Lies and Advertising". Ms Steinem, now a consulting editor on *Ms.*, did what no women's magazine editor had ever dared to do before: she named names, exposing a long list of meddling advertisers that often came close to dictating what American women's magazines must and must not write about.

But she could only do it because *Ms.*, then on the brink of collapse as a result of

dwindling advertising revenue, banned all advertising from its pages a year ago in an extraordinary gamble that has more than paid off.

"It's a delightful irony. We're doing much better without ads than with them, much to the astonishment of the industry," says Robin Morgan, the new *Ms.* editor. With subscription and newsstand sales now more than double the original target for the end of 1991 at 250,000, Ms Morgan says: "They [the publishers] kind of didn't know where to put the egg on their faces."

Attempts to lure advertisers with movie star profiles, fashion and gardening columns in the late 1980s drove the circulation of *Ms.*, once as high as 500,000, to an all-time low of less than 100,000. But with the exit of advertising pressures and the entrance of serious feminist articles, fiction, poetry, investigative journalism and international news, circulation is growing with each issue, according to Ms Morgan.

She says "Women are hungry for real nourishment; they're tired of the junk food in most women's magazines. We can name names, we don't have to hedge our politics any more. It reminds you what a free press could be like."

Readers now pay the entire cost of producing the magazine at \$30 a year for six 100-page editions and *Ms.*, for the first time in its 19-year history, is making a profit which is being put back into the expansion and improvement.

But, so far, no other women's magazines, in the US or UK, have followed suit. *Spare Rib*, the British feminist monthly, says many of its estimated 90,000 readers could not afford a significant



Safe and sound: Marcelle d'Argy Smith (left), of British *Cosmopolitan*, and Gloria Steinem, former editor of *Ms.*

rise in the cover price from £1.40 to an estimated £6 if all advertising was dropped.

Spare Rib, like *Everywoman*, the UK women's current affairs monthly, has never even tried to compete with mainstream women's magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, *Options* or *Woman* for cosmetics, food or fashion advertising. Both publications are highly critical of what they perceive as some women's magazines' willingness to attract advertisers by avoiding complementary (and complimentary) copy.

"There's no point trying to compete for those ads. It wouldn't work because we would not be willing to give over editorial space to such promotion in place of the serious coverage of women's issues, such as employment and training, most other magazines do not provide," says Chris George, the advertising and business manager of *Everywoman*, which has a circulation of 15,000.

Spare Rib, which survives on the same sort of advertising as *Everywoman*, said, in a



joint statement from the collective: "*Spare Rib* does not tailor its editorial to its advertisers in any shape or form, because this for us is the essence of independent media in a system in which big business calls the shots. This independence clearly limits our advertising revenue, but it

'Women are hungry for real nourishment; they are tired of the junk food in most magazines'

gives us a freedom to be openly critical in all spheres."

While the increase in Saturday and Sunday colour supplements devoted to fashion, travel, food, gardening and wine columns attests to the newspaper industry's efforts to woo advertisers as well as readers, nowhere is the advertiser's control so pervasive and blatant as in women's magazines, especially in America.

According to Ms Steinem, advertisers' control over the editorial content of American

women's magazines has become so institutionalised that it is written into "insertion orders" or dictated to advertisement salespeople as official policy. For instance, she reveals that in America, Bristol-Myers, the parent of Clairol, stipulates that advertisements be placed next to a full page of compatible editorial, while S.C. Johnson & Son, makers of Johnson Wax and hairsprays, orders that its advertisements in American publications "should not be opposite extremely controversial features or material antithetical to the nature/copy of the advertised product" (their italics).

Editors of mainstream British women's magazines deny that any such strictures exist, let alone influence their content. "Of course people try to

bully us, but it never affects our editorial," says Marcelle d'Argy Smith, the editor of British *Cosmopolitan*. "A beauty product has to stand up on its own merits; we just further enlighten our readers."

"Few [advertisers] dare to approach the mighty *Cosmopolitan* asking for special favours. We don't even give our sales team a list of our upcoming features. When you are as successful as *Cosmo* people push you around less." Ms d'Argy Smith denies that *Cosmopolitan* deliberately woos advertisers with supportive editorial.

This month's edition of *Cosmopolitan* has a cover model whose look, we are told, we can recreate using Le Maquillage Clarins. Inside, in between four pages of glossy advertisements for Le Maquillage Clarins, there is a story headlined "Beauty Steps" which asks readers: "Do you want a make-up that's chic for daytime and sleek for evening? Follow our step by step guide if you do." All products used in the makeover are "from the new Clarins collection".

Market tips

IF THE advertising recession were not enough to depress magazine publishers, today's launch of a computer database to advise advertisers where they can get the cheapest rates will, for an annual fee of just £260, advertisers can trade anonymous tips about what they have paid to advertise in more than 100 magazines. Prevailing rates, including the discounts various publications have conceded, will be available to all database subscribers.

"This is going to give the smaller advertisers a real weapon that they can use fairly and effectively to negotiate the best rates," says Michael Shepard-Smith, the managing director of London Sales & Services, which created the database. But publishers need not worry, he says, predicting rather optimistically that overall revenue will not be affected because smaller advertisers will now be able to afford to advertise more.

No offence

JOURNALISTS on BBC local radio and regional television bulletins have been instructed to become more "sensitive" to the concerns of women by avoiding sexist language. A new style guide compiled by Rick Thompson, the head of news and current affairs in the Midlands, tells reporters to avoid the term "housewives" in favour of shoppers or consumers. "Girls", deemed condescending, must be replaced by "women". "Businessman" is also to be excluded from scripts, along with "fireman", "ambulance man" and "chairman". The guide gives scriptwriters a choice between "chairperson" or "chair".

Just the fax

NERVOUS television executives are to be deprived of their chance to recreate the Knightsbridge media circus that traditionally accompanies both the delivering of programme promises and the awarding of ITV franchises. No dramatic entrances and exits from the Knightsbridge offices of the Independent Television Commission will be recorded this month; anxious bidders will learn of their respective fates by fax at 7am on the as yet unchosen day. The move is aimed at preventing winners and losers from trading on the stock market before the public gets the news. ITV companies and their challengers are bracing themselves for good or bad news on the 15th, 16th or 17th.

Democracy in the lobby

PROPOSALS to create a register of professional lobbyists at the House of Commons, involving only those FRs employed to work for third parties by outside consultancies, would lead to an "erosion of the democratic process" by creating special privileges for some lobbyists and not for others, the Institute of Public Relations (IPR) said yesterday. The proposals, announced on Monday by the select committee on members' interests, do not cover those directly employed by big companies and organisations. Roger Heywood, the IPR's president, said it would be more useful if the select committee were to recommend a registration of MPs' commercial interests rather than devising proposals that will "not necessarily achieve greater openness in the activities of professionals".

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& BRIEFLY

Insider views

THE Contemporary Interior Design Show opens tomorrow at the new Design and Decoration Building at 107a Finsbury Road, London SW1 (071-730 2353). David Liley and David Hicks join more avant-garde designers such as SCP and Rory Ramsden, and Charles Rutherford and James Coddington, while Space, a new company set up by Tom Dixon, will show experimental office and domestic furniture. The exhibition runs until October 20, and is open Monday to Friday from 10am until 6pm (on Wednesdays until 7pm) and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 5pm. Admission is usually £5, including catalogue, but readers presenting this column may bring along a guest free.

Juicy carats

A FULL-LENGTH evening dress in 24-carat gold, a 22-carat gold egg and a 15lb gold nugget found in Brazil are among the unusual and priceless gold artefacts assembled for "Celebration of Gold" launched by Mappin & Webb and the World Gold Council tomorrow. The exhibition, which includes work by leading contemporary designers, will be on display at the Mappin & Webb store in Regent Street, London, from tomorrow until October 19, and then moves to Mappin & Webb in Manchester (October 21-26), Edinburgh (October 28-November 2), Glasgow (November 4-9) and Guildford, Surrey (November 13-23).

The other hand

EVERYTHING designed for left-handed people, from a genuine Swiss Army knife to a T-square and a pruner, is available from Left Handed by Post. Scissors, playing cards and kitchen tools are among the many items in the free catalogue, from Left Handed by Post, Dunthill Court, Buckland Newton, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7DE. Living Left Handed, by Diane Paul, costs £8.95 including postage from the organisation.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Why some say the holidaymaker must be told more about political temperatures worldwide. Victoria McKee reports

For Dr Chris Ryan, the recent coup d'état in Haiti demonstrates "the unpredictability and fluidity of situations which can prove a constant problem for tour operators seeking new destinations and demonstrates the need for continuous care".

But then Dr Ryan is the principal lecturer in tourism studies at Nottingham Business School, Nottingham Polytechnic, and the author of *Tourism, Terrorism and Violence: the risks of wider world travel*, a study recently published by The Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism.

He argues that tourism is a political, social, economic and environmental issue, and that tourists should familiarise themselves with as much information as is available on the country they intend to visit - including any illegal political organisations active within it, and their aims and method of operation.

His study, published to coincide with the arrival of the 1992 holiday brochures, lists what he refers to as the "main terrorist groups operating in tourist areas" - 32 organisations from al-Jihad in Egypt to the IRA - and attempts to put some of their objectives into context. "I'm not condoning terrorist action," he says, "but from the viewpoint of a number of terrorists they are seeking to overthrow a government which is in many ways devoted to progress as defined in Western terms, seen as posing a threat to a culture which is valued."

Tourism is identified with the government processes... and is seen as symbolic of Western imperialism. But you cannot expect tourists to take a more responsible attitude if they are not aware of the issues and inadvertently aggravate them.

"I'm not saying 'don't go' - I'm saying that people should be in a situation where they can make an informed decision."

"The situation changes too rapidly to be included in holiday brochures which are printed so far in advance," he says. "But there is no reason it could not be made available at the time of booking."

Keith Betton, the head of corporate affairs of the Association of British Travel Agents

(Abta), says: "Abta members damned well ought to give this sort of information to customers. But we can't force travel agents to give out this information, although by law in 1993 they will have to."

Information is freely available from the Foreign Office and is disseminated automatically to members of Abta, Dr Ryan says.

A telephoned enquiry to the Foreign Office's travel advice unit about travel to Haiti yesterday afternoon brought the advice: "Pending formal advice from the port our geographical department agrees we should advise people to defer travel to Haiti for the time being." At Club Med, one carrier sending visitors to Haiti, a press officer, asked what the company was advising potential tourists

yesterday, said that she had no idea. After some consultation she came back to report: "Our manager has heard sales have been suspended. But Haiti is not a major destination."

Dr Ryan takes pains to reassure that "the likelihood of tourists being at-

tacked by terrorist action is, on a global scale, quite small. The risk of someone being shot or falling victim to a terrorist action as a percentage of the total number of people who travel is extremely small - less than .01 per cent. The risk of being involved in a hijacking has lessened considerably since the Gulf war, he says, "because now the Arab terrorist groups involved are being restrained by their governments because of the peace processes and changing attitudes of the US to Israel and Syria and Iran." And groups such as Italy's Red Army, which captured headlines and hostages in the 1980s, are now defunct, he says, "but in Italy as a tourist you're running other risks such as petty theft."

A number of terrorist groups have a policy of deliberately attacking tourist areas, Dr Ryan says - "such as the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) in Peru - which the FCO said is 'very dangerous indeed and any foreigner falling into its hands is likely to be killed' - the National Front for the Liberation of Corsica, Eta (in Spain) and Terra Lliure (Spain), the Catalan separatist group. "So if you wish to go

to countries where these groups are operating, go with your eyes open," he says. Since the actions of many groups are designed to publicise their political demands - "an example of this might be the Escampana of bombs placed on the beaches and in the hotels of the Costa del Sol between 1985 and 1987," Dr Ryan points out - some would argue that a report such as his is playing into their hands. "I know some will say, 'if you let this information out aren't you doing the terrorists' job for them?'" he says. "But knowledge is power and people should have the information to allow them to act responsibly."

Dr Ryan criticises holiday insurance policies which refuse to cover expenses resulting "from war or terrorist activities threatened or actual..." and believes that travellers would be prepared to pay higher premiums.

'People should have the information to allow them to act responsibly'



Holidays in hell? Crowds at an election rally surround a poster of President Aristide of Haiti, who was toppled in a coup this week

to countries where these groups are operating, go with your eyes open," he says. Since the actions of many groups are designed to publicise their political demands - "an example of this might be the Escampana of bombs placed on the beaches and in the hotels of the Costa del Sol between 1985 and 1987," Dr Ryan points out - some would argue that a report such as his is playing into their hands. "I know some will say, 'if you let this information out aren't you doing the terrorists' job for them?'" he says. "But knowledge is power and people should have the information to allow them to act responsibly."

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He also finds it understandable that some "host societies" can become disenchanted with tourism. He cites the example of demonstrations last summer in Goa "because the hotel was having an effect on the water supply of local people."

Countries with active political unrest are not the only danger spots, of course. The report mentions the British tourists (David Crossley in 1990, Rose and John Hayward in August 1991) shot in Miami. "In many cases holiday-makers have greater risks from other sources such as muggings or diseases, such as AIDS," Dr Ryan says. "And don't forget muggings by British tourists: there were as many as 200 British lagerlouts speeding a night in the cells at the height of the summer season on the Costa del Sol."

Martin Brackenbury, the chairman of the Tour Operators Study

Group, which represents 18 of the largest tour operators in the UK, including Thomson, and Owners Abroad says: "It is interesting that the new EC directive on package travel - new regulations expected to be drafted and published by the end of this year to come into effect in 1993 - will include the travel agent having to give passport, visa and health information as well as information about any set of circumstances in the country of destination before the contract to travel is made. So it would seem as if the need for greater knowledge has already been recognised."

"But I think it's important for each tourist destination to decide what role tourism should play in their community, and having decided that they can plan for it so that tourism can be sustainable and balanced."

But you have to be very careful about your arguments: in Goa

there is plenty of water, just a shortage of piped water. The villagers didn't have proper supplies organised."

Dr Ryan says he was "aware of some discussion on the EC directive", although it is not mentioned in his report, and would welcome it, as he has welcomed previous EC initiatives tightening tourist industry regulations. "Although in my opinion it doesn't go far enough and the travel industry can't just say it's the responsibility of the host country."

And where did the man who knows more than most about the risks of world travel choose to holiday this summer?

"I had a few days in South Wales," Dr Ryan says, "which was safe except for the sewage." North Wales with its Welsh Nationalist movement, he agrees, might have been marginally more risky.

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SUNALLIANCE
LIFE & PENSIONS

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A film festival highlights some immature and entertaining obsessions

Some young film-makers obsessed with... *I Want To Be An Astronaut*, for example, made by an all female crew in Leeds, is concerned with restrictions laid on girls' lives by received images of what they should be. In terms of appearance, the film shows, these come not only from fashion magazines and shop windows but also from parents. It seems that home-made clothes and loud-voiced mothers in shops are still significant sources of embarrassment. The film deals with them in a comic sketch. Another sketch shows girls' annoyance at being forced to wear skirts in school.

The film expresses the views of the eight 11 to 15-year-old girls who made it, with technical guidance from Vera Productions, and their work will be one of the 103 short films being shown next Friday and Saturday as part of the Co-op Young People's Film and Video Festival in Bradford. Workshops relating to the festival began yesterday, giving young people and their teachers the chance to find out more about, and try their hands at, a variety of film and video-making techniques.

A group of eight and nine-year-olds from Holmefield First School, Bradford, who wrote, acted in and filmed their work are the subject of a Channel 4 education programme to be screened on November 25. Their work, *Rattle of the Bin Ghosts*, is an entertaining six-minute film about three girls who are kidnapped by some unscrupulous spooks, which appears unwittingly to reinforce a piece of sexual stereotyping. The predatory ghosts are played by boys while the victims are all girls. The children's teacher, Sylvia Hill, insists this was entirely accidental. "The boys wanted to be involved with special effects. The girls wanted to be in front of the camera. We didn't specify what sex the ghosts were going to be when we wrote the story."

The festival is being held for the second time at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford. The Co-op, properly called Co-operative Retail Services Ltd (CRS), sponsored the original festival in London in 1966, making this the 25th year since the event's inception. CRS is providing about

Not in front of the adults



Sharp focus: a Holmefield pupil at work on *Bin Ghosts*

£60,000 sponsorship this year. The range and quality of this year's screened entries justifies CRS's confidence. The range of subject matter is revealing. Environmental issues are among the most important, with young people explaining the ravages of pollution from first-hand experience, as in *Six Miles from Bangor* (Lurgan College, 14 to 16-year-olds), as well as examining global issues, as in *Deforestation - Do You Know What It Means?* (Thornton Upper School, Bradford, 13 to 14-year-olds). This overlaps with war, a recurring theme that reflects concern about the Gulf war and its environmental consequences.

Bin Ghosts was made at the Museum of Photography, where studios and equipment are made available for educational projects such as the Holmefield First School film. A school that has regularly entered films for the festival is Maltby Comprehensive, Yorkshire, which has its own studio. Norman Fearnside is the man who runs it. "I don't want to sound boastful, but we use to buy more equipment. Let's say the pupils lean on my door trying to get in, compared with leaning on the classroom doors trying to get out."

He finds that images of children in the wider media are not a primary concern for his students. "They like making films with an element of fantasy for which they can use special effects."

He adds: "They all go away having learnt communication skills, teamwork, writing and

creative skills, and some students who arrived at the school at the same time as we started are going on to higher education in film and media studies as a result of film-making here." This year's Maltby offering includes *Riddle Me Ri*, a drama in which a car accident victim has visions in hospital.

Animation seems to be a favourite technique with young film-makers. *Naughty Danny and the Sweets* (Blanche Nevill Primary School, London, eight to ten-year-olds) shows how simple animation can be used to excellent effect. We never see more of Naughty Danny than his head and close-ups of his cavernous mouth, into which sweets and biscuits disappear with alarming rapidity, until his teeth have turned yellowish-green. A shimmering toothbrush and a plump tube of toothpaste, both with gyrating pipe-cleaner arms, come to the rescue. Never was a goody-goody message delivered with such delicious wit.

Not all the films are in English but it is regional British languages such as Irish and Gaelic rather than the language of ethnic minorities which feature. There is a Russian film, a late entry by Moscow teenager Vladimir Beliaev, which offers a fascinating first-hand pavement view of life on the barricades around the White House during the recent coup attempt.

Back home, the raw deal that the handicapped and homeless get are examples of the social concern some films show, while others are simply inventive one-offs. *The Fly Shortcut* to a *Nightmare* (Films With Guts, Liverpool, 19 to 21-year-olds) is one of these. The star, Bruce, lands on a sausage roll left over after a party. "It makes you never want to eat another sausage roll again," says Nigel Hamilton, the festival organiser. Bruce's friend Bert, meanwhile, has unfortunately been skewered with a cocktail stick and decorated with a glass cherry. Bad luck, Bert.

ELIZABETH HILLIARD
National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Princess View, Bradford (0274 727488) - Young people (ages 11-16) are £2.50 for one of nine 90-minute screening programmes, £1 for each subsequent screening programme. Workshops are free but must be booked.

Not a real doll

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TELEVISION

Not a real doll

TAKE an S, take an I, take an N, D, Y — and what have you got? Well, nothing special really. Just a rather tacky little doll that miraculously represents the aspirations of every little girl in Britain between the ages of four and nine, and therefore costs the nation's mystified parents £7 million a year. "Do you really want this Sindy wardrobe?" "Yes."

"Trust me, darling, it's in the worst possible taste." "What do you know about it?"

Last night's "Sindy at 30" (the second half of Channel 4's arts programme *Without Walls*) was a half-joking half-serious look at Sindy's brilliant career since 1961, presented by Sandi Toksvig. Manufacturers were interviewed, little girls market-

Questioning Sindy fans: presenter Sandi Toksvig

tested, and Sindy's inadequacies as a role model were ruthlessly exposed. This busy, leggy air-head devotes her life to having a good time, and getting in and out of clothes fastened with poppers. If she isn't skiing, she's playing tennis, driving a jeep. Her wardrobe is full of uniforms from all the jobs she has tried. "She is only 17 or 18 years old," said one of the manufacturers. "She still doesn't know what she wants to do."

But her main aspirations, according to her latest manufacturer Hasbro, are well defined. She wants to be a ballerina, a princess or a bride. And we will notice — now we come to think of it — the absence of outfits denoting her as an MP, barrister or district surveyor. Toksvig asked a little girl whether there was more to life than the dream of princess-bride-ballerina, and the little girl said thoughtfully yes, you could be someone who tried to save the rain forests. "And do you think Sindy is the sort of girl who would try to save the rain forests?" "No," said the little girl, "because she's too small."

I thought this showed great good sense. In fact, the image of a 12-inch doll hurtling herself in front of South American chain-saw gangs will remain with me for quite some time. Is Sindy so powerful? I rather agreed with the vox-pop interviewee who said that the appeal of Sindy was not her "aspirations" but her teeny-weeny clothes. This role-model stuff needs to be put in context. After all, for every sparkling Hippodrome outfit Sindy acquires, the child does get to witness some rather bizarre real adult behaviour, when an apparently responsible parent shells out proper hard-earned money for tiny scraps of cloth.

LYNNE TRUSS

ARCHITECTURE

Master whose mettle is galvanising

Nicholas Grimshaw, the high-tech wizard who took the Venice Architectural Biennale by storm last month, talks to Marcus Binney

His latest buildings signal Nicholas Grimshaw as the coming heir to such great engineer architects of the last century as Paxton and Brunel. He has just won the competition for the Berlin Stock Exchange. The frame of next year's British Pavilion at the Seville Expo is already in place, and the first trusses of his Waterloo channel tunnel terminus are due to arrive on site within days.

A Grimshaw building is recognisable not just by its sophisticated engineering but the predominant use of metal throughout. Not only are the main structural elements steel rather than concrete, but the outside cladding and inside fitting-out are almost always in metal too.

Grimshaw emphasises that "our concern is to achieve real quality. Our buildings are designed to last as long as anyone wants them to last."

The roof of Waterloo is in stainless steel for longevity, not the usual crinkly tin, so should last longer than the Victorians'.

His office staircase, he says proudly, is the first all-metal example in London. It looks as if it were designed to fold up into the tail of an airliner. What distinguishes it is the exquisite quality of the detail: no crude bits of welding, no discoloration around the joints and no visible screws. The handrails and wires are honed and polished like a bronze sculpture in an art gallery.

"It's detailing that interests me," he says with conviction. "You won't find a good building anywhere which isn't well detailed, however far back you go." But for all the artistry and craft, he takes pride in using standard industrial components. "We try to reduce each job to a small number of simple elements. You can't re-invent the wheel with each project. The stair here is a combination of things anyone can buy and parts we've made." They made a point of putting it together with their own hands. The stair is supported on two diagonal yachts masts. The treads fit into the slots for the rails. They are standard metal grates capped at the ends. "Everything is clamped," he explains. "We haven't had to drill a single hole."

Downstairs, staff are at work on large computer screens on the Seville Pavilion. "Climate is the key. I was determined to minimise dependence

on air conditioning. After all, people have lived in Seville for thousands of years using shade and water to make everyday life reasonable."

With a temporary exhibition building, the best form of cooling — thick, thick masonry walls — was out of the question. So instead, the west front, which catches the full impact of the afternoon sun, is entirely constructed of massive water tanks, as thick as a castle wall, to minimise heat gain. The east front is cooled by a continuous curtain of water ("240 cubic metres recycled each hour," an assistant calculates). But the sun goes off this front soon after 11, so evaporation will be kept to a minimum. The sun is kept off the roof by a series of free-standing "sails" which contain solar panels that, on a very hot day, can provide all the energy needed to operate the waterfall.

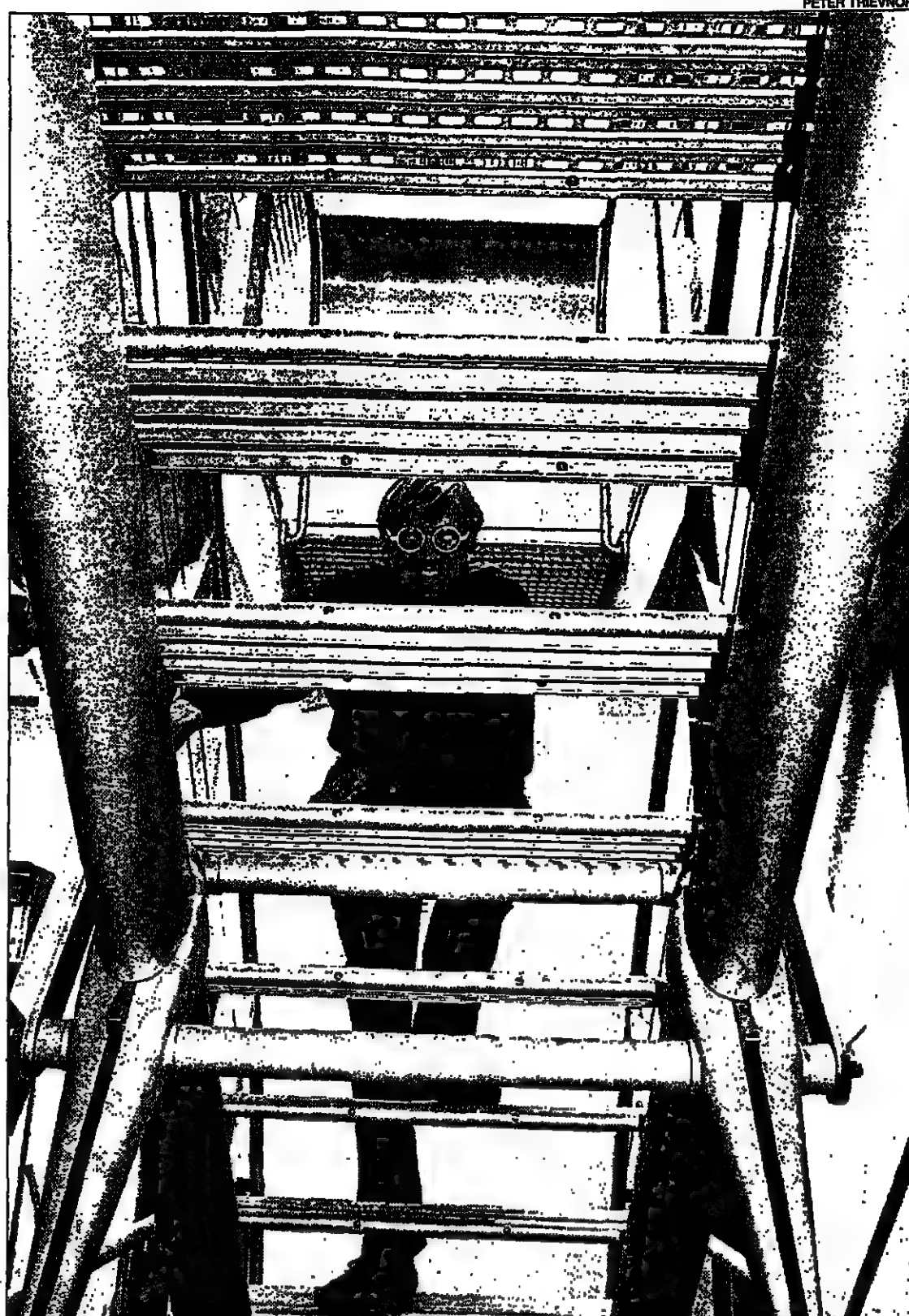
Boats also provide inspiration for his new building, now rising above Plymouth for the *Western Morning News*. "Ship shape for voyage into the future," "New flag-ship bristles with technology" proclaim the paper's headlines.

The ship illusion, obviously appropriate to Plymouth, is convincing because the wall curve out gracefully towards the top as well as narrowing to the front. The expense, however, has been no greater than his much acclaimed *Financial Times* printing works which is entirely rectangular. "We spent a long time designing the steel columns so they could be mass produced. What changes size constantly is the glass, but Pilkingtons now have a computerised cutting machine that adjusts automatically and produces remarkable economies."

The boat is dominated by a structure which looks like an airport control tower. "We demonstrated to our clients that with the extra height, they could look out at Plymouth Sound four miles away." It will house a boardroom and business centre.

Grimshaw's new Waterloo train shed is a brilliant modern homage to the great iron and glass train-shed rooms of the last century. It not only follows the curve of the tracks but tapers towards the mouth. Hideously expensive? "It's all trusses. Mass produced and fixed on site, just like Paxton's Crystal Palace. The difference is that we have computers to

'It's detailing that interests me. You won't find a good building anywhere which isn't well detailed, however far back you go'



Architect's pride: Nicholas Grimshaw with his all-metal, handcrafted staircase, the first in London

work out the immensely complicated geometry required when building on a curve."

Grimshaw's fascination with engineering was first inspired by one of his uncles at Edinburgh. "Nevertheless, you don't learn in an architectural school, but by plodding round factories. The great thing is to watch the machine at work and then ask the operator what more it can do. If it's making car door panels, I'll ask what the biggest radius is that it can extend to."

He differs sharply from those architects who argue that architecture is pure space and nothing more. "Alvar Aalto was a marvellous handler of space but he was also terrific with materials."

For Grimshaw, structure and materials are the key. "Gothic cathedrals show a deep understanding of structure. They aren't bits of decoration but real buildings of enormous strength. I feel strongly that the way things go together is the key to architecture."

Like many architects today, he hates stylistic labels. "The final blow came when I heard Frank Lloyd

Wright described as the first Post-Modernist." He feels there has been a consistent strain in his work since he began in 1965. "From the outset, the use of industrialised materials and components has been important to our design." A ten-storey block of flats was entirely clad in ribbed anodised aluminium in 1970, when "the rest of the world was still building pre-cast concrete housing blocks."

But while his early works are severe, and belong to the ethic of the industrial estate, his recent public commissions have brought him the opportunity to work with large open internal spaces and to explore new drama in skeletal steel structures. The Berlin Stock Exchange is in effect a giant rib cage. As the upper floors are suspended from above, no pillars are needed and large uninterrupted spaces can be created below. The skeletal structure also allows a new transparency. The electronic scoreboard of the stock exchange, deep inside the building, will be visible from the street. The same

BRIEFING

Wright winner

PETER Wright, director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, has won this year's Digital Premier Award, the richest single award for dance. He plans to use the £30,000 prize money to commission a new ballet from the young choreographer Oliver Hinde, which will be premiered next year. At a ceremony at the National Theatre yesterday, Wright was presented with a cheque by Geoff Shingles, chairman of the computer giant Digital Equipment Company, sponsors of the award.

Czech appeal

A PLANNED overseas tour by the venerable Huddersfield Choral Society is going ahead this weekend, despite the collapse of the air carrier that was taking it to Czechoslovakia. The Society had chartered a plane from Trans European Airways — its collapse has cost the group more than £17,000. Despite this setback, it has decided to fly to Czechoslovakia for a concert on Saturday at Bratislava, and one in Brno on Sunday, part of an international music festival. The chorists are passing round the hat; anyone wanting to contribute to their emergency appeal can contact Peter Sunderland on 0924 362081.

Prize in site

KEN Leach and Bill Jesse's building site comedy, *Riff-Raff*, continues its triumphant progress: after being named joint winner of the Critics' Prize at Cannes (for Best Film outside of competition), the film has been nominated for the European Film Awards, to be presented at the DEFA studios, just outside Berlin, on December 1. Nine other films are competing for "European Film of the Year".

Last chance...

KCE-T is the tough-talking dude from Los Angeles who invented gangster rap. His hugely successful albums open a window on a twilight world of American urban "realities": drugs, prostitution and gang violence. He winds up his British tour at Golders, Chippenham (0249 656444) tonight; Junction, Cambridge (0223 412600) tomorrow; Portsmouth Polytechnic (0705 819141) Friday; and the Marquee, London (071-437 6603) on Saturday.

ARTS REVIEWS

Paul Griffiths on the continuing *Ring* at Covent Garden; plus London's latest theatre assessed by Benedict Nightingale

Page 20

EXHIBITION

Nothing missing in action

John Russell Taylor admires the wartime paintings of British Royal Academician Richard Eurich

With some reason, Richard Eurich has been known to observe philosophically that he always seems to be rediscovered, but it never seems to make any noticeable difference. Perhaps that is because, at 88 a senior Academician (if not the senior Academician), he has just gradually come to be recognised as a classic.

The only trouble is that he is still too lively and unpredictable to fit comfortably into the classic mould. As a selector for this year's forthcoming "Discerning Eye" show, he took his place, without a second thought in the company of artists whose ages ranged down to 21, and left no feeling of incongruity.

But if he remains as impish a presence as ever, he has had his classic moments, and has lived them to the full. The grandest was in the second world war: a time when many artists' work took on a new seriousness and intensity. With Eurich it was something more than that. He had long felt in need of an epic subject, and when the retreat from Dunkirk occurred, he wrote to the War Artists' Advisory Committee: "Now the epic subject I have been waiting for has taken place... This surely should be painted and I am wondering if I would be considered for the job."

The new show at the Imperial War Museum, Richard Eurich: From Dunkirk to D-Day, offers startling testimony on how he rose to the occasion. The first work he had done as a war artist was to make some rather peaceable paintings of fishing boats at Whitby, with touches of his



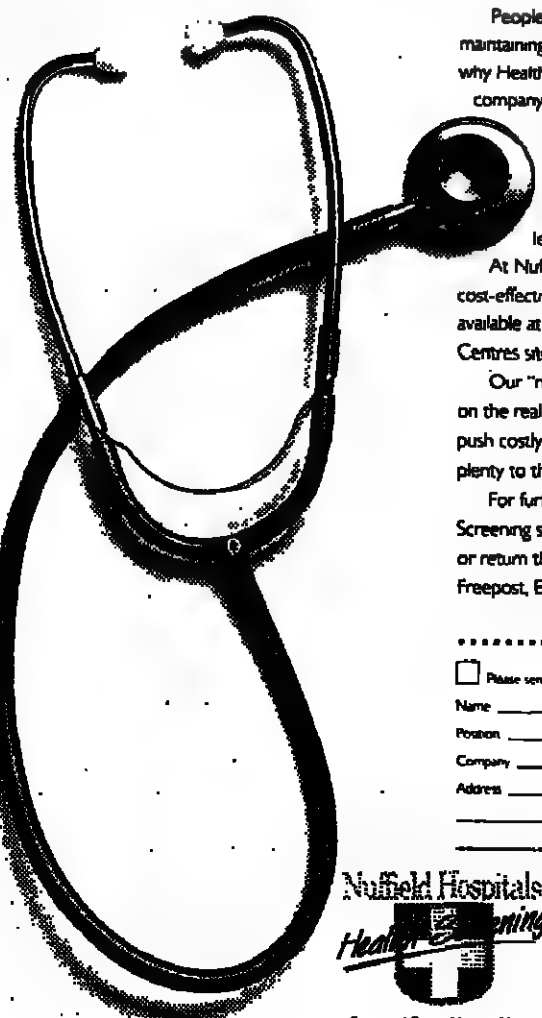
Detail from one of his more peaceable works: *Robin Hood's Bay in Wartime*

is pity in it, and a kind of terrible beauty. Other Dunkirk pictures give more of the human detail; this is very much a war that involves people as well as machines. Throughout the rest of Eurich's war, that remains true. Pictures such as the apocalyptic *Night Raid on Portsmouth Docks* or the intensely dramatic *Rescue of the Only Survivor of a Torpedoed Merchant Ship* need to be first taken in as a whole, then read detail by detail, at which point incidentals such as the wind-blown children on the cliff-top become noticeable. Some of the pictures have a telling starkness, like the *Survivors from a Torpedoed Ship*, while others, like *Fortresses over Southampton Water*, with its crisscrossing vapour trails against a dazzling blue sky, blossom unpredictably into painterly opulence.

This, finally, is the key to the whole show, if not to Eurich's whole career. Whatever his subject, he remains first and foremost a painter. A painter rich in quirky human observation, but one whose ultimate allegiance is to the play of light and shade before him, constantly changing, the ever unchanging patterns of nature which take no more detailed note of human splendours and miseries than the rainbow which floats imperceptibly over *The Ship Inn, Weymouth*. This is classic English painting, and there is nothing imperial or warlike about it, wherever tribute may currently be paid to it.

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (071-416 5000). Daily 10am-6pm, until January 12. General admission £3.50, concessions £1.65, free Fridays.

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Notes from the grave

Richard Morrison on some newly finished works by the masters

Last night it happened again. A mere mortal — in this case, an Australian pianist — had the temerity to take an unfinished morsel by a great composer, add new bits, and present it as a whole. In this case Tchaikovsky was the victim, and his so-called "First Piano Sonata" was the fragment. The practice of completing torsos has grown into an industry; a generation of academics is paying off mortgages on the backs of geniuses who are no longer around to say no.

In recent years curious music-lovers have experienced such imaginative fictions as "Beethoven's Tenth Symphony" and "Tchaikovsky's Seventh". Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony has, of course, been finished many times. Mahler's "Tenth", completed by the British scholar Deryck Cooke, is now practically a commonplace of the concert hall, and Mozart's Requiem has been finished more times than *The Times* crossword: music shops are bulging with rival "completions", or (the last word in authenticity) "incompletions".

A cynic might point out that there is money to be made, in this of all years, from publishing yet another "new" version of Mozart's Requiem. Suddenly, the publisher owns the copyright to Mozart's most popular choral work! But not all completions are motivated by greed or gimmickry. Sometimes there is a genuine desire to get a masterpiece played. The tidy-minded Rimsky-Korsakov, for instance, spent years sorting out the hideous mess of scrawled manuscripts left by his alcoholic friend Musorgsky. He must have felt like a newspaper sub-editor making sense of copy from a notoriously tired reporter. But had he not persevered, the manuscript of *Pictures from an Exhibition* and *Boris Godunov* would have ended up as fire-lighters.

Franco Alfano added the closing bars to *Turandot* (which Puccini neglected to complete before pecking out), although when Toscanini performed it he usually paused melodramatically at the point where "the manner laid down his pen".

Such stories fascinate us. Here is ordinary man struggling to fathom genius — which, by definition, will always tend to take the uncharted path. Here, too, is the sleuth sifting through clues in the dead man's desk. What does that squiggle really signify? Is that an intended key-change, or an ink-blot? And here, most deliciously of all, is a whiff of the supernatural: the feeling that the living are carrying out the unrealised wishes of those beyond the grave.

Would the composers have wanted it? Not all were as easy-going as Sir Arthur Sullivan, who after finishing an opera generally tossed it to a pupils for the boring task of constructing the overture. The dying Elgar, by contrast, felt that nobody would "understand" his sketches for a Third Symphony. They are indeed too skimpy for reconstruction, even by the most enthusiastic of American university professors. Sibelius saved scholars much trouble by burning his incomplete sketches; unfortunately, he went a little too far and burnt most of the pieces he had finished as well.

Thus do composers confound posterity. But then, many of them had no qualms about tampering with each other's work. Handel, according to one charitable contemporary, "took other men's pebbles and polished them into diamonds". That is one way of describing theft, I suppose. Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, as arranged by Benjamin Britten, sounds in places suspiciously like original Britten. Perhaps the completers have the right idea. I just hope they don't put arms on Venus de Milo.

In his speech yesterday Neil Kinnock started to sound like a potential prime minister, writes Peter Riddell

Kinnock: a leader at last

RIDDELL ON WEDNESDAY

to John Major and the Tories.

In starting to act like a potential prime minister, Mr Kinnock has suppressed his natural ebullience and occasional incoherence in interviews. He has struggled for eight years to bring his party back from near-disintegration to appear a plausible alternative government. Designer pragmatism has replaced undisciplined dogmatism. Tony Benn and his followers have been pushed to the fringes, electorally unpopular policies have been dropped, and an effective shadow team has been created. But Mr Kinnock is still relentlessly attacked by the Tory tabloids, patronised by the pundits (and some of his own colleagues), and suffers low personal ratings. Consequently he has been defensive and prickly.

The Tories have been rather too effective in exploiting these

weaknesses. In part, Mr Major is now paying the price for allowing speculation over a November election to run as long as it did before it was clumsily ended on Monday. Conservative Central Office's non-campaign campaign — daily press conferences, posters and the like — forced Labour to respond. Chris Patten's taunts about Mr Kinnock and Labour jettisoning all their principles goaded the party, as one shadow cabinet member told me yesterday.

There have also been some Tory own goals, as posters asked "Who runs Labour?" and announced that Labour's conference is in Brighton. Most people to whom I spoke thought they were adverts for Labour, since

they missed the attacks in small print at the bottom.

Labour has begun to answer the question "What do they believe in?" There may no longer be any great ideological differences between the parties, but there are policy differences reflecting the interest groups and regions on which Labour relies. Mr Kinnock and Mr Major are offering competing versions of welfare capitalism, but the accents are different. And these were the differences Mr Kinnock underlined yesterday by emphasising the party's education and training, health and industrial policies.

Mr Kinnock offered an updated version of Harold Wilson's famous 1963 "white heat of technology" speech. That en-

thused the party and was described at the time as "excellent" by Tony Benn. Mr Kinnock's theme of "up with the best in Europe" does not have quite the same ring, but it may project Labour as a forward-looking party. The Tories still sound ambiguous about Europe.

There were many echoes of the Wilson of about 1963-4 in the Labour leader's speech. I could easily imagine the old trooper saying "We must make Britain an innovation-driven economy. We must do it with sustained funding for research and with a Ministry for Science." There were similar hints of the 1960s in the references to additional growth rather than higher taxes in paying for better public services.

But if the themes were cautious and familiar, Mr Kinnock presented them in a way that excited party supporters in a way not seen

for many years. Other shadow cabinet members have also recognised the need to break away from the recent restrained formula. On Monday both Gordon Brown and Tony Blair roused the conference with sharp attacks on the Tories over mysterious large political donations by foreign businessmen and over big pay rises for top executives.

Mr Kinnock's strongest argument for a change of government is not that Labour in office would be able to change Britain very much in the short-term — disappointed hopes are much more likely — but that the Tories do not deserve a fourth term because of their record. What Labour needs is some tub-thumping populism, attacking the Tories over their help for the rich, the poll tax, health service changes and the recession. There have been signs over the past couple of days that Labour realises that it must stir the frustrations and anger of the electorate if it is to win.

Next week Mr Major will have to justify a fourth term. He has a fight on his hands.

Mrs Thatcher, visiting Poland, will find workers restive from the growing pains of capitalism, reports Roger Boyes

Can they conjure up a market?

Mrs Thatcher may be out of favour at home but for East Europeans, she is still the warrior queen who brought the walls of communism tumbling down. In Poland she is being deployed by the Solidarity government, which faces an election next month, to boost its increasingly unpopular free-market policies.

But after two years or so of exported Thatcherism, her philosophy is just a little tarnished. There are still true believers — among them the Polish premier, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, his finance minister, Leszek Balcerowicz, and the Czechoslovak finance minister, Vaclav Klaus — but their numbers are dwindling.

When Mrs Thatcher stirred the crowds in Gdansk in 1988, with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa at her side, she did not say it would be like this: with unemployment at 1.6 million and rising fast, soup kitchens and humiliating poverty.

Some of the shocks were expected. Inevitably the trade union movement was going to be shredded. In Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the unions were in any case tainted by communist collaboration and condemned to the political margins, but in Poland, the breaking of Solidarity as a trade union still causes pain. The government is nominally Solidarity-based, yet the union has less influence than unions do in Britain.

Mrs Thatcher, who today does the rounds of Poland's privatised companies, retains a sentimental attachment to Eastern Europe. It was her last big foreign policy idea. First there was the ideological war against communism. Then, when communist rule

collapsed, her ministers shrewdly cobbled together a know-how fund which enshrined that most Thatcherite principle: that people should be taught how to help themselves.

However, it is plain now that Thatcherism was not suitable for export, at least not in quite the Meccano-kit form that East European governments adopted. The huge problems facing the post-communist world in 1989 were dramatically different from the economic difficulties that Britain faced in 1979.

It took Mrs Thatcher's government 12 years to privatise 30 state concerns, but the East Europeans have to privatise thousands of companies, the great bulk of their industry, at top speed. Hungary, which is the most advanced of the economies, has opted for direct sales, mainly to foreign investors. So far, however, of the 10,000 shops and restaurants up for sale, barely a hundred have been sold. Fifty other businesses have been privatised, 110 are close to it, but heavy industry is still overwhelmingly in state hands.

"People thought that privatisation was just a matter of hanging out a For Sale sign," means Lajos Bokros, president of the Budapest stock exchange. Poland will be lucky to meet its target of privatising 20 companies by the end of the year.

Both Prague and Warsaw have devised voucher schemes to speed things along, but there is no meaningful property law, and no way of establishing who has the title to what. Is the state entitled to sell land and property that it confiscated under communist rule? How can assets be valued when there are no pro-



per book-keeping or auditing procedures?

The vulgar side of the Thatcher revolution — the spawning of yuppies, crooked bankers and brokers, an obsession with personal wealth and its display — is now in full flow in central

Europe. White sports cars wholly unsuitable for the harsh winters are double parked outside Warsaw's new private schools, and fashionable bars. Such display is stomachic for many workers to stomach, yet seems an essential part of a capitalist revival.

The real travesty of the Thatcher revolution, however, has been wrought by those former communist managers who are buying up state companies that have been deliberately undervalued and converting their power into wealth. None of the evangelists of Thatcherism anticipated quite how quickly this would happen. The workers have

been left behind by the East European market reforms. While Mrs Thatcher helped to enrich part of the British working class, or at least to make them property owners, the new rulers of the East have no carrots to offer the workers.

Under the communist system, the miners were the proletarian top dogs. Now they have lost their privileges and are threatened with pit closures. Little wonder that the Romanian miners have lost faith in the government that replaced President Ceausescu. In Eastern Europe as a whole, unemployment is climbing from zero to around 8 per cent of the workforce, even higher in Poland and the eastern regions of Germany. Retraining is helping only a very small proportion of workers. Private companies are unable to take up the slack, and the service sectors of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland account for only about a third of the gross domestic product. There is nowhere for a redundant miner or steelworker to go. The only way out for the unemployed is to emigrate to the West.

The Polish elections later this month will probably toss out some Thatcherites, including Professor Balcerowicz. This will send shudders down the spines of the grey suited men from the

International Monetary Fund, but it should not. John Harvey-Jones, the trouble-shooting former chairman of ICI, recently warned President Walesa that Poland is in danger of completely running down its industrial base, and said that the slump in British manufacturing industry in 1980-82 could be magnified tenfold in Poland.

The apostles of the Thatcher revolution underestimated the problems of introducing radical market reform in societies with only imperfect or weak democratic institutions.

Some politicians now argue that the true road should be sought not in Britain but among the Asian tigers such as Singapore and Taiwan, where government helps to direct industry and sharpens rather than blunts the competitive edge. To make such a policy work, wages have to be kept down, and that entails not only emasculating unions but also strong central government.

The reforming leaders of Eastern Europe are running against the clock. All too often nationalist politicians are seizing on the grievances of the newly unemployed or playing on the fears of workers in the state sector.

In Slovakia, premier Jan Carnogursky, advised by the Adam Smith Institute, is trying to put into place market reforms. Reading from the textbook, he tells the Slovaks that there is no alternative, but Slovaks believe there is, and there has been a big leap in the popularity of his main opponent, the populist Vladimir Meciar. The rhetorical mix of his speeches can only be described as a brand of national socialism. Is that the alternative?

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Dear Barrington Hill, I know you will forgive my writing to you out of the blue. Since I do so in reply to yours out of the blue of the 25th ult; but dare I hope that you will also forgive my explaining to the general reader that you are not, as your name might beguile them into imagining, either a stop on the Northern Line or a little-known Civil War skirmish, but the general manager of American Express? For general readers are notoriously ill-informed, which indeed is why you wrote to me in the first place. You wish to rectify this, at least, in 850 cases.

Mahogany cases, at that. You will recall that your letter offered me "the greatest writing of the last 3,000 years, housed in a beautiful revolving bookcase specially commissioned by American Express, each one hand-embossed with the initials of the purchasing cardmember." You did this because, as you were sure I would appreciate, great writing is the foundation of our civilisation. You then enquired whether I myself sometimes wished I were better-read — when, for example, someone at a party refers to something as Orwellian or Kafkaesque, or when a business acquaintance refers to the economic theories of Adam Smith or Keynes.

Barrington, you ask a straight question and you deserve a straight answer. Certainly, I sometimes wish I were better-read; but never when someone at a party refers to something as

Orwellian or Kafkaesque. When someone at a party does that, I wish only that I were better-plastered. If the business acquaintance beside him chips in with a witty gobblet or two from *The Wealth of Nations*, I wish only to move on, in the hope that the lissom redhead steadying herself against the china cabinet is looking for a lift home.

Nor does my heart go pit-a-pat at your shy suggestion that "there's a positive use of such knowledge as well: the opportunity to enliven your conversation with the thoughts and wisdom of great thinkers". For we are both men of the world, Barrington, and when I glance at your list of 130 authors — Euclid, Tacitus, Archimedes and the rest — may I not be forgiven for wondering how far over a lissom redhead, say, would be bowled over by the latest gossip concerning specific gravity?

Never mind. Let us not be crass about all this, nor even pause to wonder how we came to be selected from millions for the chance to join that exclusive band at whom this limited edition is aimed — did extensive research come up with a roll of Britain's 850 dearest conversationalists? — but address the offer's unsettling nub.

The free mahogany bookcase. The bookcase is very important. In your leaflet, Barrington, while there is only one list of your great authors, there are three photographs of your great bookcase. Indeed, it

has a brochure all its own, showing "the remote corner of Suffolk where small finstone cottages resound to the time-honoured noise of woodworking". Tap-tap, whirr-whirr, buff-buff, go the craftsmen, plying adze and gimlet selflessly in the service of the cardholding illiterate. Nor is this any old bookcase: it revolves — "a Victorian concept which brought to the drawing-room the books they needed for regular access, as opposed to the volumes which merely gathered dust in the library".

Now, I do not carp at this: a man has to know where he can put his finger on Montesquieu or Ptolemy. He could go barny, sitting alone, unable to recall Wittgenstein's favourite rib-tickler. But if he is not alone? Here, Barrington, is my carp: for I note that your bookcase does not merely revolve, it moves. It has four castors. It can be pulled around the room by any keen conversationalist. Sturdy as it is, it could even be towed behind his car. Any day now, each of 850 cardmembers will be in a position to follow the rest of us about, tugging in his gabbling wake Thucydides, Plotinus, Heidegger, Brecht...

There will be no escape from the enlivened conversation lurking in that bookcase. The poor sap will believe it'll do nicely. God help us all. Barrington, he won't leave home without it. Alan Coren's new collection, *A Year in Cricklewood*, is published by Robson Books, £12.95.

It never reigns

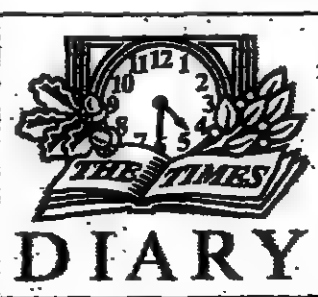
ORGANISERS of the Queen's 40th anniversary celebrations next year have been forced to apologise to two other European royal families over false claims that she is the West's longest serving head of state. Glossy brochures and leaflets claiming erroneously that the Queen was "by far the longest-serving head of state in the Western world" have been pulped.

Such is the embarrassment that it is impossible to get a consistent account of how the Royal Anniversary Trust got into such a mess. What is indisputable is that the claim, made by George Younger, the trust's chairman, in the brochure, is quite wrong.

The mistake was first pointed out by readers when *The Times* and others last month reported the announcement of the trust's plans. Both Prince Rainier of Monaco, who succeeded in 1949, and King Baudouin of Belgium, on the throne since 1951, outstrip the Queen in length of reign.

Younger says: "It was just one of those things." His chief executive, Robin Gill, claims they had printed "only about 60" of the 30,000 brochures before an eagle-eyed printer spotted the mistake. The trust then made discreet enquiries with the Belgian embassy to find out how long King Baudouin had been on the throne. But Peter Cunard, of the agency running the event, says that they have had to recall and pulp 20,000 copies of the brochure which were being sent round the world.

Younger himself, Buckingham Palace and all manner of other experts had read the copy and failed to pick up the error. The trust yesterday issued apologies to both Prince Rainier and the King of Belgium.



While the remnants of what was the Soviet Union remove their statues of Lenin and Marx, T-shirts in Estonia have found a unique use for the old icons. The town, home of the country's oldest university, dating from 1632, has not only removed its communist statues, but has melted down the metal. It is now being recast as a bust of the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus.

Who? US?

WHEN Gordon Brown took the Tories to task at the Labour conference for relying on "American-style election dirty tricks", he neglected to mention Labour's secret talks with a leading American firm of political consultants. Labour's senior campaign managers spent two weeks earlier this year talking to Doak & Schrum Associates, practised masters of the art of the negative campaign.

Even the most cynical observers of American politics were taken aback by television ads the firm ran last year for Jim Mattox against fellow Democrat Ann Richards for a gubernatorial nomination. The ads, which became famous as an example of how low American political campaigning can sink, attacked Richards for allegedly using drugs, including marijuana and cocaine. But what may embarrass Labour even more is the firm's

connection with Joe Biden, whose main claim to fame remains his plagiarism of Kinnock's speeches. The firm fell out with Biden and went on to advise his rival, Richard Gephardt. When Biden's misdeeds were leaked to the press, Doak & Schrum were blamed. Neil Kinnock said in his speech yesterday: "My father used to say the best answer to dirty play is a goal." But did he really mean in one's own net?

Wear and when

BELIEVE it or not the T-shirt is 100 years old. To celebrate the event Christie's today is holding what is understood to be the world's first T-shirt auction. While most people believe the garment was the invention of Marlon Brando and James Dean in the

T-shirts are a bit passe



early 1950s, the first recorded T-shirt dates from the 1890s, when it was part of US navy uniform regulation, which specified a "lightweight short-sleeved white cotton undershirt". But the use of slogans on T-shirts is much newer. That custom is celebrating only its 25th anniversary. Lincoln T-shirts declaring "Abe the babe lives" would have been too much to take.

Poll position

THE extraordinary nature of John Wakeham's leak on the timing of the election led to some bizarre theories yesterday. Could it all be a double bluff? Tory central office, contrary to press speculation, says as far as it is concerned nothing has changed. "We were prepared for a June poll, we have been ready ever since, and are ready to go at any time," said a spokesman.

On the other hand, another theory said that the leak, far from being timed to upset Neil Kinnock's conference speech yesterday, was designed to enable the government to go ahead with its £3 billion sale of half its remaining 49 per cent stake in BT, announced yesterday. While an election remained a possibility the sale would have been jeopardised, city experts say.

Political commentators were quick to draw parallels between Major's position and Jim Callaghan's decision not to call a November election in 1978, a decision signalled by Callaghan himself at the TUC conference with a burst of the music-hall favourite "Waiting at the Church". His cryptic message was not fully understood and the prime minister had to spell it out on television a few days later.

As the rugby world cup starts tomorrow, the trophy itself — the William Webb Ellis cup — goes on display in Cardiff at the National Museum of Wales. Alongside it will be a slide show highlighting Wales's glory days in the 1970s. With Wales having failed to win a single game for two years in the five nations' championship, and having played so alarmingly in Australia over the summer, cynics are suggesting that three weeks in the national museum may be the closest the cup gets to being in Welsh hands this year.



RUSSIA'S PROMISED LAND

Russia will not starve. Food is there: under the counters, hoarded in backrooms, hidden by factory managers to barter for precious spare parts. Much will rot in the fields, as broken tractors and combine-harvesters lacking petrol stand idly by. Millions of acres of grain will go to waste, thousands of tons of potatoes remain undug. Food will decay in leaking warehouses, get lost in the labyrinthine rail system or scatter through rusty wagons onto the track, disappear on the way to the shops as racketeers take their cut.

Panic has already set in. Russians fear they will have little to eat but potatoes and are appealing for the world to help them through the winter. What they need is not food parcels, but some practical action on the part of their rulers to obey the laws of supply and demand, the workings of the market and the urgent need to make the rich Russian soil yield again the food that once fed half of Europe.

Western governments know that democracy cannot long survive empty shelves and angry mobs. Sensibly, however, the West is not proposing to send out lorries of agricultural surpluses. The Germans, their consciences pricked by wartime memories, tried that last year. But though a few pensioners in St Petersburg were grateful for their parcels, the palliative produced only the cynical observation: "Forty-eight years too late." Instead John Major has dispatched the directors of Britain's leading supermarket chains to see how more food can be produced in the Soviet Union and then distributed efficiently to the people.

Their findings are refreshing. They underline the fact, barely understood even by liberals in the post-communist Soviet Union, that the obstacle to plenty is political, not managerial. Certainly the distribution system could be improved: proper accounting, new warehouses, refrigerated lorries, and honest shop assistants could immediately boost the supplies reaching the state shops. More food could also be grown with more fertilisers, rural investment and basic agricultural technology.

But nothing will induce the peasants in

this still largely rural country to work the land unless it is their own. Nor will they sell their produce, whatever the threats or exhortations, until they get a fair price for it. Food aid from the West will only make that less likely. Land reform has stalled at the critical point. In theory enterprising villagers are now able to lease out land for their own use. In practice jealous bureaucrats give them the worst land, harass their families and sabotage their markets.

The power of these heirs of Stalin must be broken. The vast, inefficient collective farms must be broken up, the party bosses sacked and the land given or sold back to the people: not on an insecure lease but in perpetuity. The West will invest in feeding the Russians only if its businessmen have control of their investments and can repatriate their profits. Yet Russia and other republics still propose to hold down prices, ration supplies and guarantee bread for all.

Even Napoleon was forced to recognise the iron law of the marketplace during his ill-fated occupation of Moscow. With his troops starving and his horses short of provender, he issued a proclamation whose impassioned defence of the free market, under military occupation, should be a model for legislators today: "Markets have been organised in the city where peasants can bring their surplus produce and the fruits of the earth. The government has taken the following measures to ensure the free sale of produce: From this day peasants, husbandmen and those living in the environs of Moscow may, without any danger, bring their goods of whatever nature to two appointed markets. Such goods will be bought from them at prices agreed upon between seller and buyer; but if a seller is unable to obtain a fair price he will be at liberty to take his goods back to his village, and no one may hinder him doing so." (Tolstoy, *War and Peace*.)

That is what the Soviet leaders should be doing today. Until they do, the spectre of starvation will threaten the townsfolk of Moscow each winter, as it faced Napoleon's troops 179 years ago.

NAKED INTO THE CONFERENCE

Are party conferences necessary? A few years ago, the Labour conference was the pantheon of politics: not any more. Stiffing society, sanitised debate and soundbite oratory are said to have suppressed the unpredictable. These seaside excursions once gave British politics its levelling. But conference platforms are supposed to be more than flattery backdrops for celebrities and mediocrities. The alcohol consumed at Brighton this year seems to have been laced with cynicism. Tory conferences have always been stage-managed. Now that Labour's are too, one school of thought claims that the modern party conference has all the thrills of a harvest festival.

The Fifties and early Sixties were a golden age for conference-goers. Before television began to give party conferences intensive coverage in 1962, only those who were physically present could be sure of witnessing set-piece spectacles such as Gaitskill's "fight and flight and fight again" speech at Scarborough in 1960 or Bevan's attack on unilateral disarmament at Brighton in 1957. Certain politicians made a habit of startling conferencees: Lord Hailsham's bell-ringing in 1957 or bidding for the leadership by renouncing his peerage at Blackpool in 1963.

Though television has changed rhetorical fashion and brought ever more outlandish structures onto the platforms, it has not diminished the importance of the conference. It is still a chance to gain kudos "within the enclosed world of British politics" by good public speaking and effective corridor small talk. Neil Kinnock's undoubted ability as a conference orator, like Aneurin Bevan's and Michael Foot's, underpins much of his dominance over his party and colleagues, more so than any shortcomings in the Commons.

Medieval monarchs were sometimes acclaimed by their vassals to confirm their regality. Mr Kinnock's primacy was re-

affirmed yesterday by the same method. It was not a memorable speech, indeed it was vacuous, but it had presence and it conveyed dominance. The jibe aimed at the Tories' method of stealing Labour's thunder — "a British government scuttling around the press handing out rumours from its own ministers" — was vintage rhetoric.

Though the Tory conference, unlike Labour's, has no role in policy-making or in choosing the leader, John Major knows its value, especially in the absence of that legitimacy which derives from a general election. Mr Major's first conference speech as party leader will be as important to his future as yesterday's speech was to Mr Kinnock's. At conference, the leader looms larger than ever, with every failing magnified. The greater the predecessor, the harder the task of the successor.

Party conferences are not only for the benefit of leaders. Fringe meetings — more than 50 of them in Brighton yesterday alone — provide the necessary safety valve for the frustrations which are banished from the official agenda. The informal encounters at bars and parties, whether in Grand Hotel or bed and breakfast, of politicians, officials, delegates and the press constitute the social membrane of party politics. With dwindling memberships and fewer mass rallies in between election campaigns, parties need the opportunities for mingling which only conferences offer.

The gloomy prophecy that British conferences are coming to resemble American conventions is as dubious an analogy as the commonplace that parliamentary politics is becoming presidential. Both depend on an overestimation of television's ability to alter the fundamentals, not just the externals, of politics. Though they are at least as ritualised as the other institutions of British democracy, conferences prove that ritual need not be a hindrance to survival.

AEOLIAN RUSH HOURS

Athens banned private cars from its centre yesterday. The dreaded "nephos", the brown cloud of smog that looms over the city like the wrath of some malevolent deity, had exceeded the danger limit in nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone, the pollutant that is generated by petrol engines. The nephos is created by emissions from cars and industry and has been inspissated, by unusually hot weather. In its own poisonous way the miasma of Athens has done more damage to the Acropolis than the Amazons, the Persians, the Spartans, the Macedonians, the Turks, Lord Elgin and Olympic Airways combined.

The city fell eerily silent as Athenian motorists, the noisiest, most macho and worst in the world, were driven from the streets complaining about this draconian measure. The Athenian politician Draco has been unfairly vilified by subsequent generations in the 26 centuries since he codified some of the first laws in the western world. All he did was to replace private vengeance for crime with strictly public justice. Pace the fuming motorists of Athens, he never banned cars nor even introduced the death penalty for every single offence.

Nevertheless, yesterday's purge of the motorists is not unprecedented. The ancient Greeks had a word for it, as they had for almost everything, from politicians to the tabloid newspapers. An inscription of the fifth century BC forbids the bringing of dung into or the cooking of food in the sacred

precinct of the Acropolis. To purify the city of such pollution, the smog of the time, the scapegoat must be found and punished.

The advice is still apt. The modern nephos is clearly a plague sent by Apollo, the god in charge of plagues and other miasmata. The scapegoat is the motor car, the curse of the cities of the 20th century. So following the archaic prescription, the Athenians have expelled the scapegoat. The old inscription goes on that, in order to placate Apollo, it may be advisable to establish some further cult to the deity. The Athenian city authorities, if they are prudent, now need to establish a shrine in the centre of the city to the green goddess of the environment, perhaps another park in that arid city parched of greenery, and above all an altar to Aeolus, god of the smog-dispersing winds.

Where Athens leads, can the rest be far behind? Most of what is done and thought has its roots in ancient Greece and Rome. There are now more professors of Greek philosophy in Japan than in the United Kingdom. When asked to explain their exotic enthusiasm, the Japanese reply that it is essential to understand the foundations of the strange civilisation on the other side of the world. Athens has shown one way to save Britain's precious cities. Seek out the polluting scapegoat. Look no farther than the rush hour. Ban the motor car from the city centres and build a green shrine to Apollo. The old wisdom is ever green.

Keeping nuclear options open

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, President Bush's decision to make radical cuts in America's nuclear arsenal in a bid to forestall the horizontal spread of nuclear weapons (report, September 28) is highly welcome. But what makes sense for America may not be in the interest of the UK, should his policy include dramatic reductions in submarine-launched systems.

It is imperative that President Bush confirms the current arrangement to supply the Trident system to Britain even if the assumption is that the successor to Trident may well have to be European. This is no time to abandon the strategic nuclear option given the interest in nuclear capabilities revealed by states like Iraq and North Korea.

Finally, any shared strategic defence capabilities developed between America and Russia should also be extended to cover Europe. Europe must not be left vulnerable to nuclear blackmail.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS

(Director),
Institute of Political and Economic Studies,
Warwick House,
Warwick Terrace, Cambridge.
September 28.

Pursuit of principles over Yugoslavia

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, The complex nationality problems in the Balkans are insoluble. No attempt to solve the problem of Kosovo or the problem of Macedonia or, as we are seeing, the problem of Serbia minorities outside Serbia can fail to release violent, destructive forces which have been repressed in one way or another for centuries; but it may be possible to handle these explosive issues with some degree of safety by holding firmly to a few protective principles:

1. Frontiers cannot be changed by force.
2. Every Balkan country should be encouraged to introduce and uphold improved human rights regimes for all their citizens, including all their national minorities.
3. Regional co-operation between Balkan governments and with their immediate neighbours should be fostered.

Economic help to the Balkan countries from the EC could be closely tied to the pursuit of these principles, particularly the second. Western governments have acquired plenty of experience in using human rights issues against unfriendly regimes; they will probably need to evolve some new techniques to use them to influence potentially friendly governments.

For the moment the only safe starting point seems to be to recognise that solutions are out of reach and that only a rough dousing of passions is likely to be followed by a long apprenticeship in forbearance.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
174 Queen Alexandra Mansions,
Biddborough Street, W.C.1.
September 26.

Political puzzle

From Mr Gregory Shenkman

Sir, Mr Aherm (September 24) is confused by the use of the label "right wing" for old hardliners of the Communist party in the USSR. Has he not noticed that it has become standard practice for large sections of the media to label almost anything politically "bad" as right wing?

Thus the enemies of Mr Gorbachev are labelled right wing because he is a media darling. So, no doubt, will be the leaders of the current regime in China, in due course.

I believe that fascism belongs to the extreme centre of Mr Aherm's political spectrum, not to the extreme right, as he suggested, which belongs to the monarchy. Such a concept of politics requires a three, rather than two-dimensional structure for the political spectrum, but in current times of left-wing nationalism (Romania, Serbia), right-wing socialism (France), right-wing conservatism (Sweden), perhaps such a concept of politics has become necessary.

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY SHENKMAN,
5-15 Akasaka 9-chome,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107.
September 26.

Unity through golf

From Mr John G. Howarth

Sir, For the past three evenings I have enjoyed watching 12 golfers from Europe pitting their professional skills against 12 golfers from the United States of America. What has been most remarkable has been the support given to the European golfers — by enthusiasts from Spain, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and so on. These supporters have been conspicuously waving the European flag.

Could it be that this event will prove to be a stronger force for European unity than the deliberations of politicians and bureaucrats?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOWARTH,
34 Park House, Clarence Parade,
Southsea, Hampshire.
September 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Few good marks for Parent's Charter

From the General Secretary of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, Your leader comment (September 28) on the government's new Parent's Charter exposes several flaws in the proposals and the fallacies in the claims that choice will be more widely available.

You also say, rightly, that aggrieved parents must have somewhere to go other than the institution the grievance is about. They do have somewhere to go at present; they can go to their local councillors or their local education authority officers. Will it be necessary to invent something like LEAs after the government has destroyed them?

In any case, what confidence can parents have in an inspection report given by those chosen by the governors and the headteacher to inspect their institution? Would we be happy with factories and restaurants choosing their own inspectors and can we all look forward to appointing our own income tax inspectors?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HATFIELD,
General Secretary,
Society of Education Officers,
20 Bedford Way, W.C.1.
September 29.

From Mr D. Leafe
Sir, What difference will a Parent's Charter make? Any governing body will tell you that the annual parent's meeting is poorly attended. Any parent-teacher association will tell you that press-engaging is necessary to get a committee and that only a small proportion of parents attend PTA events.

Headteachers will tell you that aggrieved parents hammer on their doors. Teachers will tell you that the only time parents appear in force in school is for progress reports and interviews about their children's performance.

A Parent's Charter will not change any of this, nor will it solve the apathy of the majority of parents to the running of a school. Instead, there is a grave danger that the charter will add to the administrative burden of schools and LEAs without actually enhancing the quality of education.

Yours faithfully,
D. LEAFE,
14 Linn Street, Warwick.
September 30.

From Mr J. R. Bradshaw
Sir, "League tables", particularly those based narrowly on examination results, will never give reliable evidence about the quality of schools. What matters is whether a school is achieving the proper potential of all its pupils, whatever their abilities. Everyone is aware that, even within the area of any one

Boxing and injuries

From Dr W. W. Gibbon

Sir, Unfortunately, no investigation prior to the event will predict acute brain injury such as occurred in Michael Watson's recent fight (leading article, September 23; letter, September 27) any more than the extent of injuries following a road traffic accident can be predicted before a crash. However, the effects of repeated head trauma on brain substance can be demonstrated.

The British Boxing Board of Control representatives have repeatedly stated to the media that professional boxers have regular compulsory brain scans. These known as CAT scans, are of relatively low sensitivity to show changes following repetitive injury.

A far more sensitive method of demonstrating brain substance abnormalities, known as MRI scan-

ning, does not use ionising radiation and can be performed more frequently without risk of radiation-induced problems. It is more expensive for the boxer concerned, however: the scans are not provided by the NHS and are funded by boxers directly.

Does boxing really want to optimise protection against the effects of chronic injury, or is brain scanning simply a token gesture? If the former, should not compulsory MRI (not CAT) scanning be enforced at perhaps six-monthly intervals, regardless of the financial considerations?

Yours faithfully,
W. W. GIBBON (Senior Registrar in Diagnostic Radiology),
Cardiff Royal Infirmary,
Newport Road,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.
September 27.

From the Headmaster of Trinity School, Croydon
Sir, When I was head of English at Nottingham High, the secretary of state's old school, I joined with colleagues in a number of equally distinguished academic schools in establishing an alternative to the sterility of O level for such able pupils. I can remember the excitement and liberation that we felt in being able to design our own internally-assessed courses, and the boredom and triviality of the formal Shakespeare paper that still had to be sat.

I therefore regard the current distrust of coursework with sadness at the retrogressive effect of such a move. In common with many aspects of the proposed Parent's Charter, it shows a distrust of the teaching profession.

When will the politicians realise that the only really effective way to improve education is to attract and retain a high quality teaching force? Any party which convinces me that it accepts that as its overriding priority will have my vote.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WILSON, Headmaster,
Trinity School,
Shirley Park, Croydon, Surrey.
September 30.

Poverty of management

From Major D. M. Leigh

Sir, If there is poverty of management (leading article, September 27) then perhaps the answer to this strategic industrial dilemma would be to inject our service chiefs, senior civil servants and judges into industry.

Our service chiefs, for example, have recently displayed their organisational and operational planning skills to devastating effect. "Options for Change" and "Operation Granby" are testament to that.

Who would benefit from this proposal? Junior officers, with quicker promotion prospects; industry, from their skills; the Treasury, because they would receive their financial worth from the private sector and not from the Top Salaries Review Body.

Yours with vested interest,
DAVID LEIGH,
The Naval and Military Club,
Piccadilly, W.1.
September 27.

Wedding costs

From Dr Kenneth Mole

Sir, In the breakdown of wedding costs (report, September 26) church fees average a mere 1 per cent, though they provide a priceless (as well as legally valid) scenario for the much more costly video and photographic records (5 per cent). The contribution of flowers is more reasonably costed at 3½ per cent.

Since demand for church weddings is high — 88 per cent — the clergy are clearly not making the best of their market and their underpaid organists deserve a copy-right fee.

Yours,
KENNETH MOLE (Organist at All Saints', Kingston Magna, Dorset),
The School,
Buckhorn Weston,
Gillingham, Dorset.
September 27.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Need to preserve library land

From Mr Vincent Brome and others

Sir, We wish to draw attention to the urgent cultural need to preserve the spare land at the rear of the new St Pancras Library which is threatened with sale by the Treasury. Such a sale would render impossible what may be a necessary extension to the new library in due course or its use for other library purposes.

The ideal thing would be to bring in the British Library's newspaper library, now inconveniently situated at Colindale, north-west London. We would also wish to accommodate an extension of the bindery. Many other needs will develop in the next ten years. Alternative schemes for short-term leases which would maintain the land temporarily in use for other profitable purposes are under discussion.

Selling the land outright now for permanent commercial purposes would be a philistine act.

Yours etc.,
VINCENT BROME,
NOEL ANNAN,
BEN PIMLOTT,
HUGH THOMAS,
45 Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.
September 30.

Net book agreement and the small shop

From the President of the Booksellers Association

Sir, With one sweep, your third leader of September 30 consigns to the scrap-heap numerous small booksellers, the majority of little-known authors, and the large proportion of the book-reading public who support their local bookshops.

In addition to dismissing the very real concerns of all these interested groups, you draw two false conclusions. First, in comparing the book trade to the grocery trade. This is not comparing like with like: unlike baked beans, one title is not a substitute for another. There will not be similar opportunities for a resurgence of small bookshops in the future.

Secondly, since there would be fewer bookshops, and fewer titles published and sold, the net result of the abolition of the net book agreement would be less retail competition and not more — to the detriment of cultural life. Surely this would not be the intention of even the staunchest advocate of survival of the fittest?

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM GIBSON,
President,
Booksellers Association,
Minster House,
272 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.
September 30.

Spreading doubt

From Mr J. M. Ross

Sir, Surely Mr Stewart Rigby (September 30) can butter his bread with margarine, just as he can iron his trousers with an iron, whatever metal the implement is made of.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. ROSS,
64 Wildwood Road, NW11.

From Mr C. O. Marriner
Sir, If Mr Rigby uses "Gold" as a butter substitute, he can say he gilds his bread. If he uses "Flora" he can flower it but, as a generic term, he can always merge it.

Yours faithfully,
OWEN MARRINER,
35 Ingebourne Gardens,
Uppminster, Essex.

From Commander J. R. Simpson

Sir, The word Mr Rigby is groping for is smear — "to spread, daub, cover thickly or in patches with some greasy substance" (Oxford English Dictionary). P. H. Reaney, in *The Origin of English Place-Names*, gives us, in Cambridge, "le Smeremonger Rowe 1330 (sellers of grease, lard, tallow, etc.)", as against "the Botry row 1501 (butter)".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SIMPSON,
56 Harbour Avenue,
Comberton, Cambridge.

From Dr Henry Hardy

Sir, The word Mr Rigby needs — for both substance and activity — is grease.

Yours etc.,
HENRY HARDY,
22 Norham Road, Oxford.

From Ms Kathryn S. Davey

Sir, To polysaturate?
Yours faithfully,
K. S. DAVEY,
Springfield, Dirlerton, East Lothian.

From Mr Colin W. D. McLean

Sir, For the perverse, saturate? Yours faithfully,
COLIN W. D. McLEAN,
Danes Vale Barn,
Wethersfield, Essex.

From Mrs Loretta J. Williams

Sir, I think that in current word usage Mr Rigby is marginalising his bread.
Yours faithfully,
LORETTA J. WILLIAMS,
28 Borge Lane,
Ripon, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Joseph Samson

Sir, Would breadspread cover it? Yours faithfully,
J. SAMSON,
23 Febworth Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Pratfalls without the tears

DONALD COOPER



Waiting: Rik Mayall as Vladimir and Adrian Edmondson as Estragon

Waiting for Godot

THERE are several good reasons for casting professional comedians as the main characters of *Godot*. After all, Vladimir and Estragon were conceived by Beckett as clowns as well as tramps. They have pratfalls to exchange, vaudeville cross-talk to exchange, funny business with ill-fitting boots, bowler hats and falling trousers to perform. Beckett reportedly advised his directors to bear in mind Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy when they were staging the play. Its spirit, he said, was that "nothing is more grotesque than the tragic".

Such was presumably the reasoning of Robin Williams and Steve Martin when they tackled the play in New York recently, and a huge popular success they made of it. For several weeks *Godot*, of all improbable works, was a hotter ticket than *Cats*. And will Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson, stars of the raucous *Young Ones* and now the inoffensive *Bottom*, parallel that feat in downtown London? Conceivably so. Whatever the reservations, at least they keep the laughter going, at least they do their energetic best to prevent the play ossifying into that drear thing, the Significant Masterpiece on Universal Terms.

Les Blair's production undeniably takes liberties with Beckett. The substitution of a very rude four-letter word for Estragon's claim that people are "bloody ignorant asses" is admittedly a direct translation of the original French text, but there were other anglicisms I do not recall having heard before. Again, the "willow" hovering over Beckett's symbolic

country road is oddly represented by the vegetation jointly invented by Madeleine Morris and the film-maker Derek Jarman: a huge, chunky tree shaped like a cross between a bull and a tyrannosaurus rex, with plaited rope for branches. More importantly, both main actors are as lacking in pathos

and depth as Williams and Martin. Mayall's Vladimir, in a battered, mud-streaked blue jacket, spends the long wait for the elusive *Godot* exuding aggressive curiosity and wry exasperation. Edmondson's Estragon, all tattered brown, opts mainly for world-weary and tubby bewilder-

ment. But the two characters are not sufficiently different from each other, the two actors do not explore their respective roles very far, and their creations are, on the whole, too robust. Where is the desperate urgency of Vladimir's desire for *Godot*'s all-purpose medicine? Where is the bitterness, the dark pessimism of Estragon? Where is their vulnerability, their helplessness and their pain?

True, they introduce some nice, amusing touches, just as Williams and Martin did. Told he stinks of garlic, Mayall goes into an elaborate routine in which he attempts to smell his own breath. Warned by the landowner Pozzo that they are intruding on his land, both actors politely strive to stand on the air above it. They mug and joke together well. But that cannot compensate for a near-total imperviousness to what finally makes Beckett *Beckett*: a sense of suffering. When Estragon describes himself as unlucky than Christ ("they crucified him quick"), he means it; even when he calls himself "unhappy", there is a stage direction describing his face as "controlled". Edmondson manages to be self-mocking in a mild, sheepish sort of way. It is not enough.

The support's fine. Philip Jackson plays Pozzo, not as the usual despotic slob, but as a lean, mean sadist, a weatherbeaten master of bounds who strides menacingly onstage to brandish his whip at the tramps as if they were hunt saboteurs; and his slave, Lucky, is interestingly transformed by Christopher Ryan into a broken cleric whose famous tirade becomes a cracked parody of the prim sermon he presumably once preached every Sunday. Beckett would have applauded. About the principals he would, I fear, have been more ambivalent.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Philharmonia/Salonen Festival Hall/Radio 3

IN HIS most jargonistic mood Shostakovich exercised a kind of reverse logic against his persecutors. As the Soviet authorities incarcerated dissidents in mental asylums, so the composer increasingly wrote music that flaunted schizophrenic traits. Thus he sent a coded indication of his dissent. But in the Second Cello Concerto the atmosphere of dislocation is so utter and irrevocable that one doubts

whether Shostakovich made any conscious choice about how to write it. This work is the rebellion of a very ill man against a very sick society. Every tortured bar signals a fracture between speech and sense, as if Shostakovich had internalised the horror of the society in which he lived. Familiar "friends" — born fathers, elegant baroque trills — are confused into a grotesque *dance macabre* without rhyme or reason. Unimportant little motifs are muffled over and over the obsessive babble of the paranoid.

The work is performed less often than the equally pessimistic First Cello Concerto, but not because it is less honest about the human con-

dition. Here is the naked honesty of an old man in a hurry: no time for pretty turns of phrase, for wooing and winning. Easy listening it isn't. But with Heinrich Schiff as the soloist, the concerto is mesmerising. He is a less demonstrative player than Rostropovich (for whom the work was written), but that is no disadvantage here: a work of such overt instability requires the utmost control and judgement. Schiff caught every mood perfectly, and his technical command was superb.

Towards the end, one of Schiff's cello-strings snapped. He left the platform for several minutes to replace it. Returning, he picked up the

music's thread as though it had never been broken: the feat of an exceptional musician. Shostakovich, who had to pick up his musical threads after rather more alarming interruptions by Stalin, would have approved.

Ess-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia had opened with a performance of "Circles" from Debussy's *Images* that was a little bloodless, for all its clarity. But with Stravinsky's *Firebird* — done in its original, gargantuan orchestration, with ear-splitting brass placed in audience boxes — the playing had a marvellous cohesion and fizz.

RICHARD MORRISON

Siegfried

Covent Garden

THE conducting of Bernard Haitink continues to give this *Ring* its driving force. There is fire in the orchestra on *Ring* nights, and also a vaunting virtuosity, despite accidents that came to afflict this *Siegfried* after a rather sure *Walküre* last week. There is, too, an assertive musical presence and personality, a sense of a rider in the saddle. However, what this rider achieves is in the interests of showing the animal of the score at its most frenetic.

Among much that was impressive on Monday night, there was a suddenly vivid exposition of the orchestral nightmare of magic fire music and menace after the Mime-Wanderer riddle game, when for a moment the orchestra's place, normally so richly ambiguous, seems entirely to be inside Mime's head. Also remarkable was the bleakness of the deep bassoon that acts as crucial to the work, the feeding of stirring over cold fire. And the whole transition to the final scene was boundedly alive, bringing *Siegfried* up (but not in this production) to a mountain vista of firm, beautiful, scanning violin line.

Sadly, the voices were not always there to match. René Kollo in the title role was clearly having to marshal his resources. Unable to risk too much

lustre freedom in his forging song, he appeared caught off guard by slips of intonation, and in his duet with Brünhilde he took care to keep stepping away to deliver his stuff straight to the audience from the closest possible position.

Gwyneth Jones's Brünhilde has no such problems, though what is most remarkable in her performance is the human vulnerability she maintains through all the vocal heroics. Happily she wakes up in a costume more suited to her naivety, and a great deal more becoming than her cruel garb in *Die Walküre*. Her problem continues to be that the vulnerability is too much actualised in tone, for though the vibrato was being mastered here, there were faints of pinching that took the shine off her singing. But at her best — in her first phrase, for example — she stands way ahead of the field.

James Morris as the Wanderer continued on his desultory course. John Dobson sang a characterful Mime, bringing all one's sympathy on to his side. It was also wonderful to re-encounter the darkly fierce Fafner of Franz-Josef Selig, the unquestionable Erda of Anne Gjevjang and the Alberich of Eckhard Witschke, who knows what can happen when a singer believes the words matter, and demands that a blistered, fractured being can express himself through singing of formidable strength, accuracy and point.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

The Black Crows

Town & Country

FOR the Black Crows it is Europe's hard way. Having swept all before them in America, where their estimated debut album *Shake Your Money Maker* has sold three million copies, it is back to the theatre and leisure centre circuit in the UK and playing bottom of the bill at the huge AC/DC concert in Moscow last weekend.

But in their mind's eye these strappy Southerners are already headlining at Wembley Arena. Certainly, their huge lighting rig looked as if it was intended for bigger things than this 1,400-capacity club. So, too, did vocalist Chris Robinson. He flounced on in full Seventies superstar regalia, a tall streak of skin and bones with lank hair and wraparound shades, effortlessly twirling a microphone stand held at half-mast, parallel to the floor.

Although in their early twenties, The Crows play old-fashioned, rebel yell rock. Their hair is long, their role models are groups like the Faces, the Rolling Stones, the Allman Brothers Band and Free, and their attitude is not so much about letting the good times roll as it is a crusade to reassert the anti-establishment values and abandoned working practices of rock in its heyday. "This is a song about belief," Robinson said, eyes flashing,

as he introduced "Stare it Cold". This infectious, clanging rocker, typical of the set as a whole, was propelled by his brother Rick Robinson's open-throated guitar riffs lurching to either side of the best like a drunk weaving along the top of a garden wall.

Such fundamental dedication to the cause of "real" rock'n'roll produced mixed results. A tremendous slow section of "Seeing Things" — featuring a genuine Hammond organ — and "Sister Luck", showcased the rich, throaty timbre of Chris Robinson's voice. Likewise, Otis Redding's "Hard to Handle" demonstrated the band's superlative feel for mid-tempo R'n'B with a mildly funky undercurrent.

But the Crows' attempts to revive the ancient art of the extended jam on "A Thorn in My Side", incorporating quotes from Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" and a verse or two of the Beatles' "Get Back", sounded unfortunately like the work of a pub rock band running short of material towards the end of the night.

A brave version of the Allman Brothers' "Dreams" founded on the inability of drummer Steve Gorman to make it swing, but the mood of raucous enthusiasm was recaptured with the glorious closing song of "Jealous Again", the kind of song that will surely see them swaggering on to bigger stages before long.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Arts features, page 15

NEW RELEASES

DEKALOG PARTS 1 AND 2 (PG): First two parts of Krzysztof Kieslowski's marvellous cycle of modern morality tales inspired by the Ten Commandments. Essential viewing. *Rankin* (01-437 8402).

JACOBS LADDER (R): A Vietnam vet (Tim Robbins) is trapped in demon visions and dreams. Fright, over-the-top thriller from the writer of *Elmer* and director Adrian Lyne. *Cannon* (01-437 8402).

MEETING VENUS (R): Backstage drama while staging *Travels with My Sister*. Starring Helen Mirren, Glenn Close, directed by Julian Jarrold, produced by David Putnam. *Cannon* (01-437 8402).

THE OBJECT OF BEAUTY (R): Michael Haggard's comic tale about a man who falls in love with a woman who is a man. *Rankin* (01-437 8402).

A RAGE IN HARLEM (R): A film about violence in a black ghetto. Starring Laurence Fishburne, Gregory Hines, Robin Givens. Director: Bill Duke. *Cannon* (01-437 8402).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Ⓢ) on release across the country.

UNDER SUSPICION (R): Liam Neeson as a private investigator in a murder with a femme fatale (Laura San Giacomo). Silly British thriller set in Brighton. *1992*.

PROSPERO'S BOOKS (R): Peter Guinness's variation on *The Tempest* with John Gielgud's Prospero stalks Shakespeare's last through a jungle of eye-popping images. *Cannon* (01-437 8402).

NEARLY HENRY (R): Master of the Universe turns into a comedy. *Rankin* (01-437 8402).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of theatre in London and (where indicated with the symbol Ⓢ) on release across the country.

UNDER SUSPICION (R): Liam Neeson as a private investigator in a murder with a femme fatale (Laura San Giacomo). Silly British thriller set in Brighton. *1992*.

PROSPERO'S BOOKS (R): Peter Guinness's variation on *The Tempest* with John Gielgud's Prospero stalks Shakespeare's last through a jungle of eye-popping images. *Cannon* (01-437 8402).

NEARLY HENRY (R): Master of the Universe turns into a comedy. *Rankin* (01-437 8402).

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Major's election leak backfires on Tories

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's decision against a November election was last night provoking heated debate, not so much over its content as over the manner of its delivery.

Neil Kinnock sought to exploit the leak: "You can run but you can't hide," he told Mr Major in his speech at the party's conference in Brighton. Allegations that the announcement had been botched were rife among less prejudiced sources.

"None of us could believe that Kinnock had been given such a gift by the Tories. Labour people were just chortling in the bars; they couldn't believe their luck," an ITN spokesman in Brighton said. "If the Tories had announced it yesterday morning instead, they would have been headline news at 6 o'clock, not Kinnock attacking the Tories," said one political correspondent.

The Tories' main dilemma concerned timing. If they had waited until yesterday, they might have pushed Mr Kinnock out of last night's television headlines, but they would have been criticised for their cynicism. As it was, they were accused of it anyway, mainly by those they left out of the privileged network.

Angering newspapers such as *The Independent* and agencies such as the Press Association, neither of which was privy to the leak, meant the source, once discovered, was rapidly revealed. John Wakeham, one of Mr Major's closest cabinet colleagues, was the man, it emerged yesterday, who telephoned *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express*, *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sun* at 10am on Monday morning.

Although Mr Wakeham deliberately avoided breaking the news to broadcasters in order to ensure the story remained a Tuesday morning splash, Elinor Goodman, the political editor of *Channel 4* News, learned of it from John Smith, the shadow chancellor, in time for a quick report on Monday night. It is assumed one of the chosen journalists must have told Mr Smith.

Kinnock triumph, page 1
Labour in Brighton, page 9
A Middle, page 13
Peter Riddell, page 16
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Muzzle velocity: a high-speed collision leaves one Afghan hound looking puzzled during a race at Smallmead Stadium in Reading. Berks. The dogs were practising for the final of the Efacest trophy at the stadium next month. Brenda Reynolds, of the sponsors Efacest Vet, said: "Unlike racing greyhounds, they don't always run in the right direction. Some cock their legs on the way, or forget to finish. Others run the wrong way, and some are diverted by a good smell. Squirrel chasing seems to be the most common kind of training."

Major scents diplomatic coup over EC treaty

Continued from page 1

of national ministers and members of the European parliament yesterday. He said, however, that the parliament could not expect national parliaments to "embrace enthusiasm".

The European parliament has asked for powers to frame or veto laws and for greater rights to control the appointment and actions of the unelected commission which drafts EC policies. Several ministers at yesterday's meeting suggested that a com-

promise could be found by strengthening the parliament's powers over the commission.

With only nine weeks left to the summit, the prime minister believes that the Dutch government's anxiety to pre-empt the signing of a Maastricht treaty between the EC member states opens the way for agreement on slower, less ambitious progress towards strengthening the community.

Mr Major has made it clear he would not want the word "federal" in any final agree-

ment nor would he favour moves towards closer monetary union which would isolate the community even further from other European countries.

With his decision to delay the general election until next year, Mr Major's attention is firmly fixed on the electoral consequences of a Maastricht treaty. Government sources see the chances of the prime minister achieving a diplomatic coup if he succeeds in getting agreement at Maastricht to a treaty for strengthening the community which was largely of his authorship.

At tomorrow's meeting Mr Major will also put forward plans for emergency flood aid to the Soviet Union during the winter from both the G7 countries and the community. After a month of talks with Soviet officials and the G7 "sherpas", and reports from the agriculture minister John Gummer on the food shortages, he is expected to ask for surplus EC food mountains to be sent as and when necessary.

Labourers retreat, page 12

Kinnock makes health main election issue

Continued from page 1

health secretary. Conservative business managers believe that Mr Major, who has always used the NHS personally, carries more conviction as its defender than did Mrs Thatcher when she declared in 1983 that the NHS was "safe on our hands".

But campaigns by Labour, by health service unions and by medical bodies against the health service reforms which permit hospitals to opt out of local health authority control (although not, as ministers regularly emphasise, out of the NHS) have led to increased public concern about the future of the NHS, notably at the Marmouth by-election.

After that contest, the raising of public consciousness on health issues saw a rapid Labour surge to a ten-point lead in national opinion polls.

The Tory concern is underlined by the latest Mori opinion poll. Conducted from September 20-24, this showed that the public found Labour's policies best on health by a margin of 21 (46 per cent to 22). Those considering health to be one of the most important issues were at 45 per

cent, second only to unemployment.

□ A further worry for the Conservatives now the election has been postponed until the spring is that two by-elections must be held at the margins of Langbath and Kinnock and Decide (Sheila Gunn writes). They are likely to be held either on November 7 or 14.

The Queen's speech, opening the last session before the general election, has also been brought forward from November to October 31. The early start will give the government's business managers more time to clear the legislation, including the bill to replace the poll tax with a council tax, through parliament in time for a possible spring election.

Kinnock and Decide Tories have picked Marcus Humphrey, aged 53, the laird of Dimnet, to fight the by-election after the death in August of Alick Buchanan-Smith. His prospects of holding the seat look dim against a strong challenge from the Liberal Democrat candidate, Nigel Stephen, aged 31, who came within 2,063 votes of ousting the Tories in 1987.

Political sketch

Neil's gladiators entertain the conference circus

"A FUNNY thing happened to me," said a young man called Julian, to the conference yesterday, "on my way to the forum."

With its pillars and plinths and parthenon-style seating arrangements, Labour's classical white designer platform at Brighton resembles a stage set for a post-democratic socialist version of *Up Pompeii*. Snigger ye not. With the Frankie Howard voice Mr Kinnock could be in for life.

But it does mean proceedings have the air of a Roman games-show. The platform party blends well with the scene.

"Your question for twenty, Geraldus Nauseus, which Labour front bench has been trying for longest to get onto the NEC? You had? That's right Geraldus. Clare, bring him the grapes." Clare Short, a robustly Dionysian demi-goddess if ever there was one, is never far from the platform; while Harriet Harman, though she was not actually wearing white robes yesterday, deserves her front-line place in the Chorus, gracefully chanting doom.

"Nice oration, Antonius Blair. You win the racing chariot. Now, over to the action of the Hattersley family, Luchinus Maximus. For 20 points, Luchinus, and a Bacchanalian feast in Crete, name a policy that has survived the last three Labour manifestos? You can't? That's right Luchinus."

For their sport, once the serious part of the show is over, contestants and audience will watch, drooling as a pallid young outcast, Dave Neillist, *allus Incubus* Rebellus, is thrown to the lions and torn to shreds while the tabloids cheer.

But that fun is still to come. Yesterday came the speech of the king, Kinnockus Caesar, a leader who has worked his way up from the ranks of the Gallic tribes, and is known to the Emperor Flabbius Verbofus: How would he perform?

Before he spoke, I turned to scrutinise his audience. The Brighton conference hall was packed. What sort of people were they?

I took a sample of 100 men: 72 wore ties. That was no surprise. More intriguing is the steady improvement over recent years in Labour conference-attenders' com-

plexions. Spots, once rife, have almost disappeared. This is either a tribute to improved nutrition under Mrs Thatcher, or a sign that a different type of activist is prospering in the party. Body odour, once a serious problem at Labour conferences, is now a thing of the past.

Brushing aside nostalgia for the acac and sweat, the shoulder-chips and the bitterness, I asked myself what do these people want to hear?

Introducing Mr Kinnock, the chairman answered me: "Remind us, Neil," he said, "what a great leader you are. Remind us what a great prime minister you will be."

If that was Mr Kinnock's task, he took it head-on, with success. His speech was mostly boring but never silly. It was heavy on the shortage of chemistry teachers, and light on inspiration. But it gave no hostage to fortune, and offered some practical pointers to a solid philosophy of government. By omission if not by declaration, it jettisoned many of the ideological ambitions of his predecessors and of his youth.

For the first time, Mr Kinnock nearly sounded like a prime minister. Only when a verbal slip had him telling us of his plans for "a high-speed rail network" did the old Kinnock peep through.

Before his speech, an "award of merit" went to an elderly activist, Wendy Fryd. Permitted her moment at the microphone, she spoke of William Morris, Robert Owen and supporting the striking miners before the war. She spoke movingly and, straining to hear, I was distracted by a party manager talking to his colleague.

"Smashing," he was saying (about some conference arrangement), "good-good. She's overruling. Someone should shut her up."

Eventually Mrs Fryd was given her gift and left, like Orwell's faithful old horse, Boxer, who was removed to the knacker's after the pigs took the ascendancy at Animal Farm. Like Boxer's, Mrs Fryd's work was done. If she stayed, she will not have recognised much in her leader's speech.

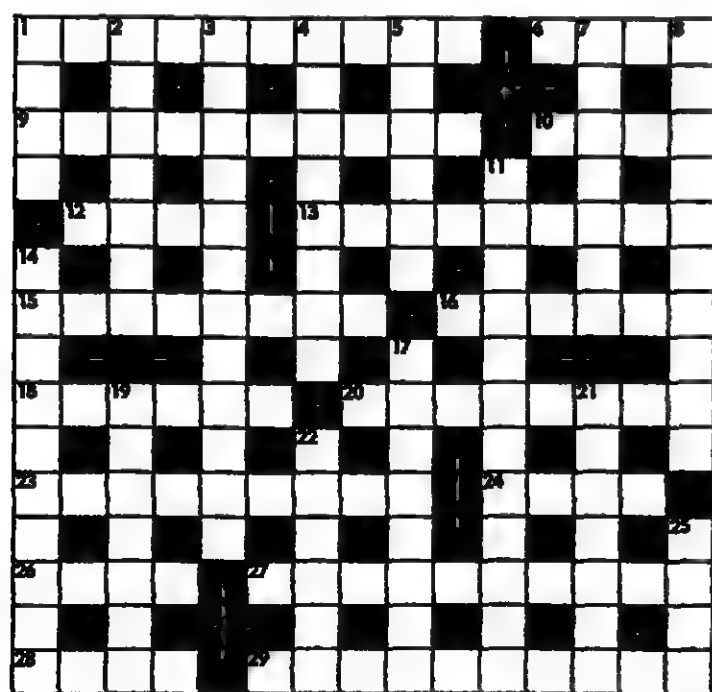
I shall miss her. So, I suspect, will the Tories.

MATTHEW PARRIS

TOMORROW: RUGBY SPECIAL

As England and New Zealand launch the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham tomorrow, *The Times* publishes a 16-page guide, in full colour, to what is undoubtedly the biggest sporting event staged in Britain since the football World Cup of 1966. The guide is essential reading for followers of the sport, the premier event in world rugby. It includes a wall chart enabling you to keep track of matches and results through the month, articles include one by Rob Andrew, England's fly half, on life inside the England camp, there is a complete guide to the television coverage on ITV and much more to keep readers informed and entertained during the tournament. Order tomorrow's *Times* today

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,726



- ACROSS**
- Drug dispenser has to help on till, say (10).
 - Timid females among W African people (4).
 - Important person taking the pledge, relatively speaking? (5-5).
 - Promise extracted from Horatio at Hamlet's duel with Laertes (4).
 - Country bupkin detailed to put on collar (4).
 - A Pictish circle, perhaps? There it is in a nutshell (9).
 - Porter given a night involving random choice (8).
 - Innocent child a composer lost in Italy (6).
 - Favourite student expelled in a show of boldness (6).
 - The prevalence of bills in America (6).
- DOWN**
- Attendant takes exercise astride a horse (4).
 - Article you and I find in part inspiring (7).
 - Language unfamiliar to tougher men (6,6).
 - Pier blown up after prisoners hatch a plot (8).
 - Odds on strike causing big headlines (6).
 - Survive the river crossing (7).
 - "Love goes toward love, as from their books" (R & J) (10).
 - Corrupt woman with character, a respected counsellor (6-6).
 - Push blighter in farewell entertainment (10).
 - They're the very end in drapery? (8).
 - Free record made available to the public (7).
 - No players are in the lead all the time (3-4).
 - Woolen yarn of endless excellence? Not at all (6).
 - Irritation caused by sea mist (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,725

DEPOSITION M C
L R N V E K I M O
A V O G A D O R S E I M O
N I I T A
U S E D G R E E N L I G H T
N I T E S O H E
P A G E A N T S M E L T E R
L I C A I A A
A R M A G E D D O N C O A L
V M I A A R L
A C T I P R O P T O L
C A T A I L S P I N
L I K E L Y O S E
S T R I N G E N D O

WORLD WATCHING

By Philby Howard

- CHERMOYER**
a. The Peruvian custard apple
b. A double cherry
c. An Apache medicine man

- RECEILING**
a. Seaweed growing on a shipwreck
b. Counting as nothing
c. The weakest or youngest of a litter

- LIPBLOCK**
a. Lip cream to stop smudges
b. A view of sitcom
c. The headstone of a vault

- TAPOTEMENT**
a. A Bengali cantonment
b. Massage by hitting
c. Fishing by hand grenade

Answers on page 20
Concise crossword, page 19

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Cross)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National motorways
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-east England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 46p per minute at all other times.

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Much of England will be dry and bright at first but cloud and rain over south-western areas and the Channel Isles will spread north-eastwards. Windy especially in the north and west. Northern Ireland will be windy with rain at times. Scotland will be cloudy, misty and windy with outbreaks of rain. Wales will be cloudy for much of the day with light rain becoming heavier. Outlook: brighter with showers.

MIDDAY: 1-4 shower, 4-6 drizzle, 6-8 fog, 8-10 drizzle, 10-11 rain, 11-12 drizzle, 12-13 rain, 13-14 drizzle, 14-15 rain, 15-16 drizzle, 16-17 rain, 17-18 drizzle, 18-19 rain, 19-20 drizzle, 20-21 rain, 21-22 drizzle, 22-23 rain, 23-24 drizzle, 24-25 rain, 25-26 drizzle, 26-27 rain, 27-28 drizzle, 28-29 rain, 29-30 drizzle, 30-31 rain.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Aberdeen	12	12	12	12
London	12	12	12	12
Manchester	12	12	12	12
Birmingham	12	12	12	12
Cardiff	12	12	12	12
Edinburgh	12	12	12	12
Glasgow	12	12	12	12
Liverpool	12	12	12	12
Newcastle	12	12	12	12
Nottingham	12	12	12	12
Sheffield	12	12	12	12
Southampton	12	12	12	12
Stoke	12	12	12	12
Swansea	12	12	12	12
Torquay	12	12	12	12
Wrexham	12	12	12	12
York	12	12	12	12

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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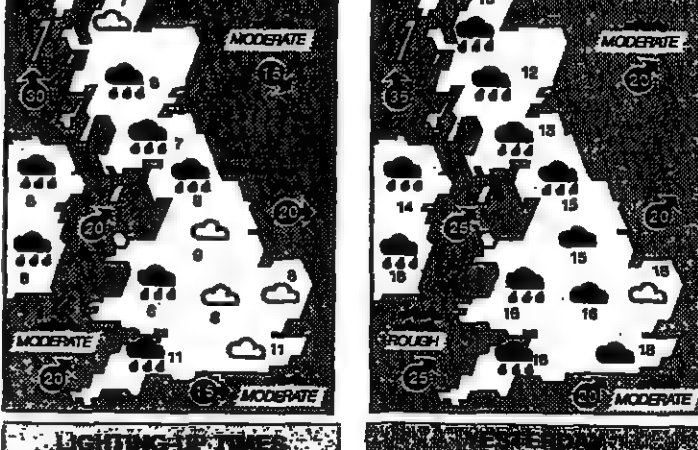
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WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER



London 6.37 pm to 7.04 am
Brighton 6.47 pm to 7.13 am
Edinburgh 6.41 pm to 7.18 am
Manchester 6.45 pm to 7.13 am
Penzance 7.00 pm to 7.24 am

Sun rises 7.02 am
Moon sets 4.08 pm
Mean time 1.15 am

MANCHESTER
Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 14C (57F), min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.04 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.9 hr

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Monday: Highest day temp: Gurnsey, Channel Islands, 18C (64F). Lowest day temp: Lerwick, Shetland, 9C (48F). Highest rainfall: Harrogate, North Yorks, 0.6 in. Highest sunshine: Hastings, East Sussex, 10 hr

HIGH TIDES
TODAY
London Bridge 8.54
Aberdeen 8.51
Abermouth 8.51
Belfast 8.51
Cardiff 8.51
Edinburgh 8.51
Glasgow 8.51
Liverpool 8.51
Newcastle 8.51
Nottingham 8.51
Sheffield 8.51
Southampton 8.51
Stoke 8.51
Swansea 8.51
Torquay 8.51
Wrexham 8.51
York 8.51

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Water industry agrees to peg price increases

By MARTIN WALLER

MOST of the water companies in England and Wales have given in to pressure from Ian Byatt, the industry watchdog, and agreed to hold next year's price increases to below the level permitted under the industry's regulatory regime.

There was some relief in the City that the amount of cash forgone by the water industry, and in particular by the ten companies quoted on the stock market, was less than had been feared. The prices of several of the ten are likely to rise this morning after last night's late announcement from Mr Byatt, director-general of water services.

Last month, Mr Byatt called on the 32 businesses in the industry in England and Wales, including 22 statutory water companies, to voluntarily accept some of their permitted price rises to take

account of gains from lower than forecast costs or delays in capital spending.

Mr Byatt has the power to call for immediate adjustments in water price rises to levels below those already set for the five years after privatisation. His call for some increases to be relinquished was seen as part of the continuing tug-of-war between the industry and the regulator.

Mr Byatt said most water companies had agreed to moderate their price increases next April, and the reductions would knock £40 million off next year's water bills.

Stephen Doe, water analyst at Smith New Court, the broker, said the market had feared that Mr Byatt might single out several of the larger companies for an interim review. Severn Trent and Welsh Water share prices had been particularly hard hit, he said.

Significantly, both have accepted comparatively hefty reductions in price increases.

The two exceptions to the rule are both among the ten quoted companies. South West Water faces problems relating to EC requirements for cleaning up beaches, adding £300 million to £350 million to spending budgets by 1993. The company has called for an increase in the annual rate, inflation plus 6.5 per cent, by which it can raise its charges. This is being considered by Mr Byatt.

Anglian Water has said it requires more time to decide if it can cut tariff increases to below the permissible rate of inflation plus 5.5 per cent. Mr Byatt's office appeared relaxed about that last night.

Mr Byatt said that, except for South West Water, his office was confident that price increases for all the bigger water companies would be in single figures from April. He added: "I am pleased that the companies have responded positively to the suggestion that they should not take up the full amount."

Some customers who take their water from statutory companies will also see some significant reductions from expected price rises.

Water companies' finances have been pulled two ways since privatisation. Although they have seen increased clean-up expenses, other costs have fallen faster than forecast. High interest rates have meant windfall earnings from large cash balances held in the bank when the companies were floated.

Comment, page 25

Company	Original K	K + U	Proposed increase
Anglian	5.5	5.5	Undecided
North West	5.0	5.0	4.5
Northumbria	7.0	7.0	6.0
Severn Trent	5.5	5.5	4.5
South West	6.5	6.5	Under enquiry
Southern	5.5	6.1	4.7
Thames	4.5	4.5	4.0
Welsh Water	6.5	6.5	5.0
Wessex	4.5	4.5	4.0
Yorkshire	5.0	5.6	2.8

K is the amount above inflation originally agreed with the companies for price increases. U+U is the amount permissible for next year after earlier rises were foregone and the value column is the increase above inflation agreed by the companies after pressure from the regulator.

Path cleared for BT shares to raise £5bn

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE prime minister's decision not to hold an autumn general election has cleared the way to raise £5 billion in the sale of about half the government's 49 per cent holding in BT, the telephone utility. The informal announcement of the political decision on Monday night allowed the marketing campaign for a sale in early December to go ahead yesterday morning, without electoral complications.

A share information office has opened and the government is starting a campaign of television advertisements.

Small investors will be offered more complex incentives than before to enable the government to aim at least half the likely £5 billion sale at the public while BT shares remain quoted and subject to stock market fluctuations.

Incentives will include a fixed discount on the first of three instalments to give a quick profit. Bonus shares or a discount on the final instalment will be offered to those who hold on to their shares, if registered with the share information office. Existing BT shareholders are registered automatically.

Preference will be given to those who sign up for one of the eight approved share



shops set up by banks and building societies or who apply through an authorised financial intermediary. There will be no special benefits to BT customers.

The sale price will be determined by a pioneering international tender through which the government hopes to maximise proceeds from the issue. Institutional investors in more than ten countries will have to bid for a fixed amount of stock on the basis of a pathfinder prospectus to be issued in mid-November. Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, and Barry Romeril, its finance director, will also give 18 presentations worldwide.

The government and SG Warburg, its main adviser, will fix a striking price on the basis of bids received just

before the offer closes. All institutional investors will pay this price. Small investors will also be charged on the basis of the striking price. They will, therefore, not know the final cost of the shares, which might be more than the quoted price of BT, when they apply.

Small shareholders will, however, pay a fixed first instalment, on which they will be given a discount. The discount is likely to be about 5 per cent of the full price but nearer 15 per cent of the first instalment.

Phonepoint, the one-way cordless phone service in which BT has a majority stake, was suspended yesterday leaving no telepoint systems operating in Britain (Nick Nuttall writes).

Phonepoint, which cost the consortium £25 million over its two years of operation, had only 800 customers. Yesterday's announcement leaves Hutchison Telecommunications, which bought out the BYPS consortium of Barclays Bank, Shell and Philips earlier in the year, as the only telepoint operator planning a service.

Mercury Callpoint suspended operations in July and Zonephone, in which Ferranti had a majority stake, had also been suspended.

Comment, page 25

Company doctor revives Dan-Air

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Davies & Newman, the company that owns Dan-Air, slumped by more than half to 70p yesterday after it was pulled back from the brink of collapse through a £53.75 million cash injection from 19 City institutions.

The airline, whose bank debts climbed to within £1 million of its limit on the last day of the Gulf war and which lost £39 million last year and a further £30 million in the first six months of this year, is convinced it has turned the corner and predicts constant profits growth from next year.

The rescue package, involving the placing of 107.5 million ordinary shares at 50p each, was hawked around the city over the past three weeks by David James, the company doctor who was appointed



James City support chairman of Davies & Newman almost exactly a year ago for a fee of £1,000 a day. He will step down next summer and hand over to Peter Ryan, the airline's chairman. A new managing director with long experience in the airline industry is being sought. Mr

James said: "I have never been involved in such a detailed financial investigation of a corporate plan."

The institutions were attracted by Mr James's detailed recovery plan. This forecast that losses will rise to £35 million this year but projects that Dan-Air will return to profits of £20 million next year, rising to £42 million by 1995. The company promises to eliminate its debts and pay a dividend by 1993.

Under its new corporate plan, Dan-Air will get rid of a total of 21 old Boeing 727 and BAC 1-11 jets, mainly to third world countries, and replace them with 20 new leased Boeing 737-400s. The new aircraft will be concentrated on scheduled services.

Dan-Air was on the brink of collapse when Mr James took over the reins last year, and was then hit hard by the Gulf

war, which led to daily losses of around £600,000 and a total loss of £14 million. Lloyds and four foreign banks had agreed to a complex loan package to tide the company over until the end of this year. Mr James believes that if the war had gone on for two more days the company would have run out of cash.

Over the past 12 months, a total of 24 unprofitable routes have been axed from Dan-Air's network, including Gatwick to Belfast that alone was losing the airline £1.8 million a year.

Now the company hopes to keep competitors at bay and rebuild confidence by holding on to its attractive slots at Gatwick and applying for 11 new route licences, of which seven will be in operation within three years.

Comment, page 25



Stepping out: Julia Lemigova and Yulia Kosman model Littlewoods' Russian lines

Littlewoods opens two new stores in Russia

By OUR CITY STAFF

RUSSIAN shoppers are to get a flavour of the British high street when Littlewoods, Britain's largest private company, opens two shops in St Petersburg next week. The move is Littlewoods' first retail expansion outside Britain.

Desmond Pitcher, the chief executive, declined to say how much the project had cost but said that during the August coup he had feared the investment would be lost. Expected sales were not disclosed but Mr Pitcher believes the venture could break even in its first year.

Littlewoods has signed two joint venture agreements with Russian groups, one with Gostinyi Dvor, the city's largest department store, which will house both shops, and one with Mayak Tailoring Association, which will make clothes in Russia to Littlewoods' designs.

One shop will accept only local currency and will sell the Russian-made men's and women's clothes. The other will be a hard currency store selling electrical goods, clothing, beauty products, food, tobacco and alcohol. Mr Pitcher said the shops, would sell identical goods to those available in Britain. He added that if the venture was successful, Littlewoods could eventually have more stores in Russia than the UK.

Discussing the group's proposed sale of its mail order business, Mr Pitcher said he was negotiating with three parties, some from continental Europe. He said Littlewoods' agreement to repurchase Home Delivery Service, part of Federal Express UK, would not affect the sale of the mail order business although Home Delivery Service will be sold along with the catalogue business.

Markets celebrate election decision

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A FLUSH of excitement ran through the financial markets, pushing the pound and share prices higher, after John Major's decision to rule out an election before the spring.

The FT-SE 100 index rose 20 points during the morning, closing at 2,645.6, up 23.9 from Monday. The pound jumped half a pence, but eased back slightly to DM2.9140 at the Bank of England close, only slightly above its previous finish. Sterling's trade-weighted index held steady at 91.1.

Although the prime minister has relieved the political pressure for early interest rate cuts by deciding against a November election, market hopes are rising that he will pare a further half point off base rate in conjunction with the inflation figures out on

Friday next week. The money markets have largely discounted such a move since the last cut on September 4, when base rate was lowered a half point to 10.5 per cent. The removal of uncertainty about the political timetable enabled sterling to hold steady.

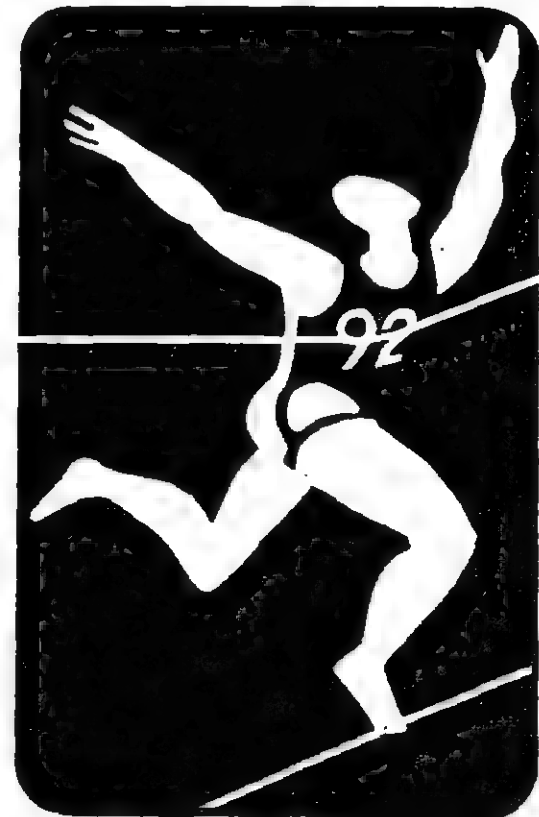
Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, foresaw a danger that, in delaying the election, the economic indicators would still not be favourable enough to secure a Conservative victory. He foresees annual inflation starting to tick back up later this year with a possibility that the government might be forced to raise interest rates again before going to the polls. The recovery is also likely to be too weak to improve unemployment.

Stock market, page 26

Tempus, page 26

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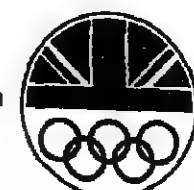


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Gulliver stands down

JAMES Gulliver is bowing out of the quoted company arena by resigning as chairman of Waverley Cameron, the Edinburgh office supplies group. He had indicated that he wanted to step down from the company in December when it was the subject of a reverse takeover by BHS Group, the office equipment concern.

Mr Gulliver, who has a 24 per cent stake in Waverley, will remain a significant shareholder. He will be replaced as chairman by Michael Scorey, the former chairman of BHS.

Countryside sale

Countryside Properties, the property developer, has sold its newly-completed Chase Cross office development in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society for about £12.5 million. The 44,000 sq ft development will be the new headquarters for Cheltenham & Gloucester Guardian, a subsidiary of the building society. Countryside shares added 3p to 106p.

Intrum expands

Intrum Justitia, Europe's largest debt collector, has opened a subsidiary to buy bad loans from British banks, building societies and retailers. The company, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange, has put £4 million into the operation, and is thought to have borrowing facilities of up to £75 million to buy debt.

Stylo-loss grows

Stylo, the footwear retailer, has reported "very disappointing" interim results. The half-time pre-tax loss has swelled to £5.65 million (£231,000 loss) because of the recession, poor weather, higher VAT charges and increased rents. There is again no interim dividend.

AIB stops issue

AIB Group, Ireland's leading bank, has cancelled an \$80 million share placing in America because it failed to attract sufficiently high quality investors. The bank said it was postponing the issue of 4.7 million American depositary shares, equivalent to 29.3 million ordinary shares or 5 per cent of its capital.

Guinness 'used share support to counter rival'

By OUR CITY STAFF

GUINNESS only supported its share price during an acrimonious takeover battle five years ago when a rival used "unfair" tactics, a court was told yesterday.

Olivier Roux, finance director during the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers and the Crown's main prosecution witness in the Guinness fraud trial, said support was used just as a "corrective".

Mr Roux, cross-examined by Roger Seelig, the former corporate finance director at Morgan Grenfell, told Southwark Crown Court that whenever share price support was discussed at Guinness, it was always on the basis of preventing Argyl, its bid rival, from taking an "unfair advantage". Support was used as a "counter-measure" not as an "aggressive attack".

Mr Seelig, who denies taking part in an illegal multi-million pound share support operation to help Guinness win control of the Scottish drinks company, asked Mr Roux: "Are you saying then whenever support was used, it was used as a corrective to what you knew or thought you knew to be artificial attacks or depressions on Guinness's price?" Mr Roux replied that support was also used to inflate Guinness's share price if Argyl had enhanced its own.

Mr Seelig asked: "Does it follow that as a corrective, the objective was never to inflate the Guinness price per se? It was merely to bring it back to what it should be if there hadn't been an artificial attack?" Mr Roux agreed.

Mr Roux told Mr Seelig yesterday that he had never believed what he had done was either dishonest or unlawful, nor would he have ever entertained breaking the law. He told the court his firm,

Bain and Co, the management consultant that had allowed him to serve on Guinness's board on secondment, had drawn up a strategy to "straighten out" the drinks company. He told Mr Seelig he had never "knowingly or dishonestly" advised any of Bain's clients to make unlawful payments to third parties in order to secure acquisitions for their development.

Similarly, he would not have advised Guinness to pay invoices he knew had been dishonestly produced, or to induce the acquisition or disposal of shares by "dishonestly concealing material facts".

Mr Seelig denies two charges of false accounting under the 1968 Theft Act and one under the 1958 Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act. Lord Spens, former managing director of Henry Ansbacher and Company, denies a charge of false accounting.

Both men have pleaded not guilty to a joint charge alleging conspiracy to contravene the provisions of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act. The trial continues today.



Chief witness: Olivier Roux, former finance director

Creditors' bid to jail Nadir 'futile'

AN ATTEMPT by leading creditors of Polly Peck International to jail Asil Nadir, the company's former chairman, over a \$27 million deal to sell his shareholding in a Turkish bank was described as "futile" by his QC in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Nadir, who is facing 18 charges of theft and false accounting involving up to £200 million in pending criminal proceedings, was present to hear Stanley Brodie, QC,

argue that the move to jail him by the Inland Revenue and eight leading banks should be struck out without a full hearing because they had shown no case against him.

The creditors have started committal proceedings against Mr Nadir on the basis of alleged breaches of a High Court undertaking not to dispose of his assets pending the hearing of a bankruptcy petition launched last October. The breaches relate to the

sale last December of Mr Nadir's 98 per cent shareholding in Impex, the Turkish bank, coupled with an option for Mr Nadir to repurchase the shares within three years.

Counsel said Mr Nadir had sold the shares for the benefit of his creditors and had formally assigned the proceeds of the sale to them in January this year. In February, the bankruptcy petition was dismissed. In March, the buyers of the Impex shares

had failed to pay the first \$12 million instalment.

Mr Brodie said the creditors believed that some "collusive bargain" had been made although there was not "one single shred of evidence".

Mr Nadir had repeatedly urged the creditors to sue the purchasers in Turkey in order to recover either the shares or the purchase price.

The hearing, expected to last a further two days, continues tomorrow.

BTH to raise £7m as losses increase

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BRITISH Thomson Holdings has unveiled plans to raise £7.02 million, along with senior board changes and proposed acquisitions totalling up to £7.15 million, at the same time as announcing increased full-year losses.

The USM-quoted manufacturer and distributor of educational and scientific furniture will raise the £7.02 million through a £2.57 million seven-for-five rights issue, at 10p a share, and a £4.45 million underwritten vendor placing at the same price.

Trading in BTH shares was suspended at 15p ahead of the announcement. The company also said that it had applied for admission to the main market.

BTH has conditionally agreed to acquire Farthingbank Holdings, the holding company of Educational and Scientific Furniture, the educational furniture maker, and Masterpack DSK, a packaging group, for a maximum of £7.15 million, mainly in new shares.

Brian North, chairman and chief executive of BTH, will become chairman and finance director, and Allan Cloggie, Farthingbank's chief executive, will become chief executive of BTH.

At the same time, British Thomson announced pre-tax losses deepening to £1.04 million in the year to the end of April, against £876,000 the previous year, on turnover of £733,000 (£1.79 million). Again, there is no dividend.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Profits fall at Alexon and Claremont

ALEXON Group, the fashion retailer that owns the Alexon, Dash and Easter brands, said it had yet to see any improvement in the prevailing retail environment. The group, which has 100 high street stores, made pre-tax profits of £3.82 million in the six months to July 27, marginally down on last year. Turnover fell to £56 million (£57.2 million) and earnings per share rose to 7.24p (7.05p). There was an extraordinary charge of £1.4 million and the interim dividend is held at 3p.

Claremont Garments, the manufacturing arm demerged from Alexon in July, reported its first results as an independent company. The Marks and Spencer supplier made pre-tax profits of £2.83 million (£3.11 million). Claremont shares rose 8p to 196p. Alexon fell 3p to 440p.

Wyko Group expands

WYKO Group, the industrial machinery components distributor, is buying 42 branches of EW Bearings for £3.6 million. The deal, to be financed by a £4.04 million open offer and placing, will be paid for through the issue of 9.2 million new shares at 47p, underwritten by BZW.

Blenheim to buy MBWE

BLENHHEIM Group, the acquisitive international exhibitions group, is buying Men's & Boys' Wear Exhibitions for £7.5 million, in cash and loan notes. MBWE made pre-tax profits of £772,000 in the year to the end of December, on turnover of £1.76 million.

Watts declines 22%

DIFFICULT trading conditions and reduced demand for building ceramics in most European countries led to a decline in interim profits at Watts, Blake, Berris & Co, the Devon hall and china clay producer.

Pre-tax profits fell 22.4 per cent to £3.5 million (£4.32 million) in the half year to end-June. Turnover climbed 8.6 per cent to £31.4 million. Earnings per share slipped to 11.6p (14.9p), but the interim dividend is maintained at 2.7p. Gearing is about 20 per cent. The shares firm 3p to 408p.

Ossory Estates pegs payout

PRE-TAX profits at Ossory Estates, the property investor and trader, were down less than 1 per cent at £7.15 million in the year to end-June, compared with £7.22 million previously. Profits on disposals were £5.26 million (£5.00 million). The final dividend is held at 0.45p making an unchanged 0.85p for the year.

Boosey up at £1.3m

BOOSEY & Hawkes, music publisher and instrument maker, says half of the pre-tax profit increase from £1.04 million to £1.3 million in the six months to end-June came from favourable exchange rate movements and half from publishing interests. The interim dividend rises from 4p to 5.5p a share.

Power station plan

EAST Midlands Electricity plans to build a £200 million, 400 megawatt combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station near Corby, Northamptonshire, in partnership with John Brown, the engineering group. The plant would be instead of, or in addition to, a similar plant at Rugby, Warwickshire, that is also a joint venture with John Brown.

East Midlands is already building a 350 megawatt CCGT station at Corby and is seeking consent for an 800 megawatt CCGT station at Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire.

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Press Statement

ATTEMPTED FRAUDULENT TRANSFER OF FUNDS

The Central Bank of Nigeria has become aware of attempts being made by some unknown persons to defraud some overseas corporations and individual business-men. These attempts take the form of circular letters or unauthenticated fax or telex messages relating to purported approved transfer of funds running into millions of U.S. Dollars arising from excess claims on some alleged foreign contracts awarded between 1979 and 1983 in Nigeria.

2. The authors of these circular letters who always use Nigerian names are believed to be part of a syndicate of international tricksters out to dupe the gullible overseas recipients who may fall their victims. In these circular letters, they seek to solicit the support of the recipients to help them transfer the funds from Nigeria to offshore bank accounts with a promise to share the illegal proceeds with them. They request from the would-be collaborators blank

but signed corporate stationery including proforma invoices, a nominated bank account number to receive the funds, the nominated bank address etc.

3. These tricksters, have in a number of cases, succeeded in collecting huge sums of money from some overseas collaborators for what they often describe as local taxes or levies and expenses to bribe government officials to facilitate release of the funds. They produce fake documents purporting them to be the initial contracts, official approvals and payment order instructions signed by some officials of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria in order to convince their collaborators that action has been completed at their end for the transfer of the funds.

4. Enquiries addressed to the Central Bank of Nigeria relating to these fraudulent attempts have not only come as a surprise but have also been a source

of embarrassment. The Central Bank of Nigeria, therefore, wishes to advise all recipients of these fraudulent letters, unauthenticated fax or telex messages that they do not emanate from the Bank and that the Bank has no knowledge or record whatsoever of the purported claims or transfers or even the related alleged contracts.

5. The Central Bank of Nigeria wishes also to use this medium to appeal to all recipients to exercise caution and to contact their local law enforcement agencies or the International Police Organisation nearest to them in order to help track these international crooks. The Bank will bear no responsibility for any loss sustained by any person or corporation that fails to heed this warning in the hope of making quick money.

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BT launch may tread water

COMMENT

Two factors will determine whether the public rushes to buy the government's latest BT offer. Will the near certainty of an instant premium for small investors offset confusion over the complex arrangements and will investors believe that they are not going to be hit over the head again once the government has sold its shares?

After the debacle over the secondary sale of BP shares in 1987, where fixed pricing would have proved a problem even without the crash, government advisers have gone to great lengths to ensure that the sale price varies with the market price of BT. Fixing the price through an international tender ensures that the striking price reflects institutional demand, avoiding either a last-minute disaster or a big discount to allow for late movements in BT shares. Underwriting might even be unnecessary.

This is a sensible idea but fits ill with the political need to aim the issue at small investors. The public will have to subscribe before the price is known. The fairer the price, the less the profit

deemed necessary to attract the public in numbers. Fitting in mass marketing required solutions that will make the issue inefficient and expensive.

Ingenuously, the offer will be structured to give an instant profit for small investors, on a fixed first instalment, whatever the final striking price, short of a market crash. The price of this is, however, a contradiction. Small investors will be offered a strong incentive to sell their shares immediately, to collect the built-in incentives through share shops offering cheap dealing. As usual, they will also be offered other incentives to keep their shares through loyalty bonuses or discounts.

Those who treat privatisation issues simply as being offered a pound for 85 pence need not worry about the future of BT. Others will ask some searching questions about the government's long-term intentions. Investors need no better reminder

of the risk than yesterday's settlement of cuts in the water price limits that were agreed before privatisation and were heavily relied on to persuade the public to buy water shares.

The cuts in price limits are much bigger than they seem. The other comfort factor in the sale of water companies was that they could pass on extra costs forced on them by changes in environmental rules after privatisation. The rules have duly been changed, mostly by the EC. But the water regulator has, bullied the companies into absorbing the cost, probably more than £200 million a year against the £40 million apparent cut.

The regulators of BT and British Gas have changed the rules just as radically since privatisation. Further changes for British Gas will ignore the

interests of shareholders. A review of BT will be conducted next year in which competitors will urge that it be broken up. Indeed, regulators are increasingly competing with each other to make life harder for privatised utilities. Unless the government and the director general of OfTel make clear statements on the limits of their future interference with BT, potential investors should be deeply suspicious.

Second dan

Miraculously, David James has pulled Dan-Air out of its tailspin. A year ago it seemed nothing could save the ailing airline and in January the Gulf war brought it to within a few days of receivership. Even

until today, Davies & Newman has remained on the corporate life support machine, operating with minimal net assets and making big losses.

In the last few weeks, however, Mr James pulled off a remarkable coup. He hawked Dan-Air's business plan around the City in the hope of raising £40 million to prop up its finances. He was practically mobbed by institutions. They are investing £14 million more than they were asked for.

If the City had been half as generous to other companies during the recession, there would be less work for liquidators. Dan-Air's success has been derived from a potent mix of Mr James' management skills, the investors' emotional attachment and its own potential.

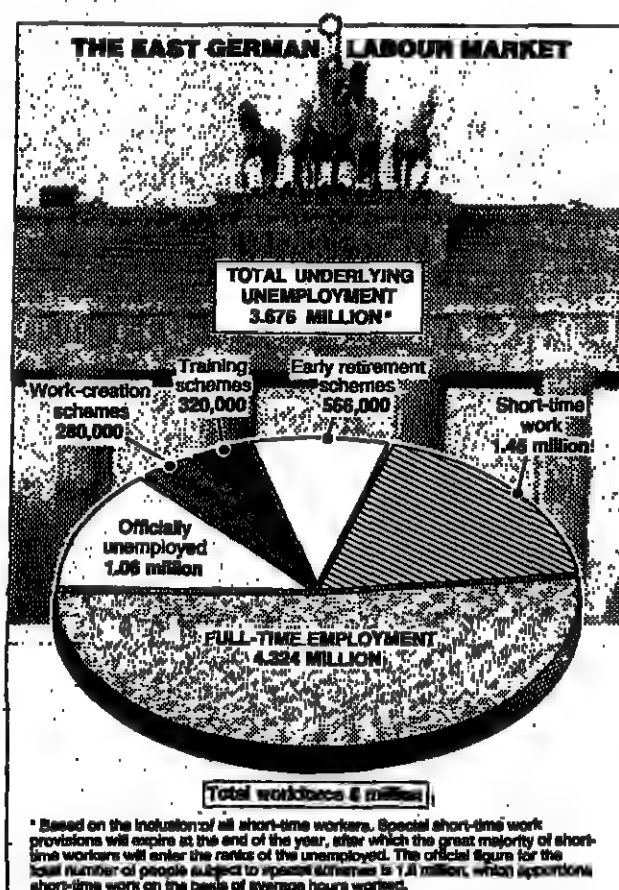
Mr James had made a series of shrewd and decisive changes. The disposal of all non-core interests has allowed the group to focus on running an airline, while

the reorganisation of its treasury operations has brought control over cash flow. Meanwhile, D&N's bankers and the institutions were shaken by the collapse of International Leisure Group and its Air Europe subsidiary earlier this year. They were prepared to bend a few rules and cross their fingers to prevent another large airline crashing. Dan-Air's own prospects finally clinched the deal. The group's projections suggest the group could be profitable next year, debt free in 1993, and be making £42 million a year by 1995.

These figures may have impressed the professional but they should still be treated with caution. They cannot take into account any war, terrorism or acts of god which would hit air travel. They also predict 9 per cent annual growth revenues from scheduled traffic and an 8 per cent annual rise in charter seat rates. Intense competition now endemic in the airline industry could render these targets impossible. Dan-Air is still flying, but investing passengers may continue to suffer turbulence.

Statistics that disguise the size of Germany's army of unemployed

Unified Germany is a year old tomorrow. Wolfgang Münchau assesses the state of the labour market in the eastern half



WHEN German pessimists turn out to be too optimistic, one can sense that something has gone wrong. Tomorrow, unified Germany celebrates its first birthday, marking a year that has confounded forecasts. The economy in the west grew beyond capacity, while the eastern economy collapsed. Any slump, of course, ends sometime, and if the government is to be believed, that moment is just around the corner.

Superficially, the government has a case. According to labour market and industrial statistics, the economic decline has halted and the situation is under control. Unemployment, we are told, is contained because of a variety of job and training schemes. This year, the east will receive about DM100 billion in transfer payments, which is helping a newly booming construction sector to rebuild dilapidated roads and homes. Are we, therefore, heading for the second post-war German economic miracle? Well, not quite. The few statistics produced by the former East German regime were at best misleading. Even today, we are far from a state of statistical certainty. One example is the size of the east German labour force. The federal office of labour in Nuremberg can only establish this information on the basis of polls.

The simplest explanation, perhaps, is to quote a remark by Karl Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president — is that east German industry did not produce goods people wanted to buy, irrespective of price. The Trabants and Wartburgs perished, not be-

cause they were too expensive to produce, but because they were awful cars.

The east German economy was beyond redemption, insensitive to the standard tools of western economic management. The debate on what would have been the "correct" exchange rate — one-for-two, or one-for-three, as opposed to one-for-one — was a dead-end analysis from the start. Equally beside the point is the

economic laboratory, the wonderland and looking-glass approach was doomed to falter in the real world.

The greatest mistake of German policy-makers was their failure to accept the inevitability of decline as they tried to stem the economic collapse, rather than respond to it. The most flagrant example of their failure is the response to the rise in unemployment. There are many job schemes on offer, but

It is impossible for a unified country to sustain two separate labour markets

constant complaining, most notably from the Bundesbank, about east German wage rises. It is impossible, politically as well as economically, for a supposedly unified country to sustain two separate labour markets over a significant period of time. While economists have had an intellectual field day with the east German

most have one thing in common: they encourage employers, through subsidies, to keep workers in jobs that have no future, in industries that are doomed, producing goods that no one wants, financed by taxes that no one wants to pay.

The distortion of the labour market is shown in the chart by the gulf between officially

measured unemployment of 1.06 million in August and underlying unemployment of almost 3.7 million. The underlying rate contains a potentially large margin of error because it includes short-time workers, many of who will register as unemployed next year after the special scheme runs out in December.

The Institut für Weltwirtschaft in Kiel, one of Germany's five leading economic institutes, estimates a range of "real" unemployment of between 3.5 million and 4 million. Whatever the precise figure, it is clear that the free market in east Germany can only accommodate about half its workers.

There is an important social factor that has contributed to the rise in the unemployment rate as expressed by such statistics. The work participation rate of women, at 90 per cent, is gradually falling to the west German level of just under 60 per cent. The result is the decline of the total workforce from 9.2 million to about 7 million, excluding the officially unemployed. This will fall to about 6 million by the end of the year. Hence, even with a constant level of unemployment, the unemployment rate would have risen anyway.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the government's policy is the establishment of job creation schemes. About 280,000 workers are employed through these schemes. This is expected to rise to about 400,000 by the end of the year and remain at that level throughout 1992. Under the scheme, the state pays workers between 50 per cent and 100 per cent of the previous wages, which makes job creation schemes more attractive to workers than training schemes, which offer wages of only 70 per cent of previous levels. The fear is that job creation schemes will crowd out private investments and, therefore, prolong the adjustment process.

The federal office of labour denies this, pointing out that the private sector enjoys priority rights when it comes to public sector contracts. Klaus-Diet-

Interest takes one pound in every four earned Growing debt hurts UK plc

ALMOST one pound in every four earned by United Kingdom companies was swallowed by interest payments last year. The rapid escalation of indebtedness is one of the most striking features of UK plc, revealed in the latest edition of *Industrial Performance Analysis*, a study of returns from more than 15,000 British companies.

The study shows that the average return on assets achieved by companies declined by a full percentage point between 1989 and last year, as the recession took hold. The return had peaked at 10.2 per cent in 1988. Returns in the current year will be lower still, the researchers predict.

In a scathing commentary, *Analysis* predicts that it may be "many years, if ever, before we see a return to the level of results achieved during the 'golden' period of 1987/8". During the period from 1988 to last year, profit margins fell from 8.2 per cent of sales to an average of 7.4 per cent. That, and high interest rates, contributed to an increase in the proportion of

pre-interest profit swallowed up by interest payments, from 14.8 per cent in 1988 to 23.2 per cent last year.

Shareholders have reason to be concerned. Their returns have fallen by four percentage points to 22.2 per cent last year. More alarming is the fact that although both capital employed and fixed assets per employee rose steadily, to £37,777 and £24,061 respectively, this has not been

'It will be years before we return to the level of the 'golden' period'

reflected in productivity gains, even though sales rose 11.6 per cent last year alone.

The picture is not one of universal gloom. Industrial services, such as computer software, contract cleaning, painting and security, has emerged as the most profitable industry in the UK economy, when measured by return on capital (RoC) of 22 per cent. The chemicals and plastics

sector shrugs off its boring, cyclical tag to come second with an RoC of 21.7 per cent, displacing, perhaps unsurprisingly, building materials and transport distributors.

Food and drink distribution, a classic recession-proof sector in which Britain ranks as a world leader, has also surged into the top five with an RoC of 21.4 per cent. The work performers are predictable, including textiles and footwear manufacture, transport equipment manufacturers and construction.

The tables of industries with the fastest growing profits, however, contain some surprises. In the production industries, agrochemicals and fertilisers show a strong recovery, along with machine tools, and oil refining. Passenger shipping jostles with air conditioning and private health care for honours in the services sectors.

Industrial Performance Analysis, ICC Business Publications, 72 Oldfield Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2HQ.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sinclair to leave BZW

AFTER boldly staying on past retirement age to see out his duties, Ken Sinclair, chairman of BZW Securities, has at last decided to call it a day. But after 43 years in the Square Mile, retirement is far from his mind. Sinclair, aged 60, who joined David A Bevan Simpson in 1954, and was second senior partner of de Zoete & Bevan by the time BZW was formed in 1986, will remain chief adviser on securities matters. A familiar and lively figure in City watering holes — notably the Jamaica — he helped make BZW a major player in swaps and US government bonds.

Thai'd line

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton and Norman Lamont are due at the British embassy in Bangkok on October 12 during the meeting of the International Monetary Fund. But many financiers and

journalists have run into problems trying to confirm invitations. It seems they have mistaken the contact number in Thailand for one in London, and have been greeted by the irate owner of The Lord Nelson, in the City road.

Sir Patrick Sergeant, chairman of Euromoney Publications, has announced his retirement — a year early. He steps down next September, and Padraic Fallon will take over as executive chairman.



Deserving case

KEITH Jones, a consultant with Grand Metropolitan Estates, got more than he bargained for while strolling down Oxford Street on Monday. Jones had called in at the West End offices of Conrad Ritblat, the property company, to collect a plastic note holder. Stopping near a busker to gaze at one of the group's properties, he was startled by the clunk of metal on plastic. An elderly woman, mistaking his outstretched hand, had chipped in 2p.

SIGN in a Bradford laundry: "Please remove your clothes when the light goes out."

Chicken's off

A GROUP of Kentucky businessmen who went to Romania last week to assess new business opportunities left with their tails between their legs. The group, spotted in the lobby of the Intercontinental Hotel, in Bucharest, clad in "I love

Kentucky" sweatshirts, had apparently decided that a chain of Southern Fried Chicken stands was just what Romania needed. A taxi driver, keen to show them the sights, drove them to the heart of Victory Square — at the very moment that hordes of rioting miners attacked the government building. They caught the next flight out.

Disabling terms

DAIWA, the world's second biggest securities house after Nomura, has taken drastic steps to cut costs at its King William Street City office. Staff have been told they will no longer be eligible for health disability insurance if they are aged more than 55 or have worked for the firm for more than one-and-a-half years. The restrictions affect anyone who is involved in buying or selling shares — in other words, just about everyone except senior management... and the personnel department.

JON ASHWORTH

Divided islanders dream of reunification

Greek and Turkish Cypriots, living on an island still split 17 years after the landing of Turkish paratroops, are being coaxed to the negotiating table by the United Nations.

Peter Strafford reports on the background of mistrust and injustice hampering the chances for a peaceful settlement

While new disputes between ethnic groups have been breaking out elsewhere, especially in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, the long-standing differences between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have remained a constant feature of the international scene.

There has been a flurry of diplomatic activity this autumn, set off by President Bush's decision to make one more attempt to bring about a settlement in Cyprus. However, the failure to bring the parties together at a United Nations-sponsored conference in New York last month was an indication that the two sides are still far apart.

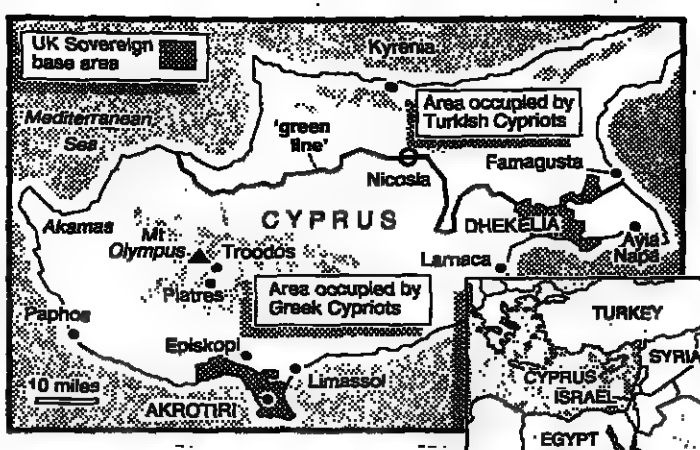
Cyprus has now been peaceful for several years. Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots each run their own affairs in their own areas, the Greek Cypriots being particularly prosperous.

The Green Line, however, which is patrolled by UN troops and cuts across Cyprus like a scar, is a reminder of the fighting of the past, and the Greek Cypriots are using all the diplomatic pressure they can to end the division.

President George Vassiliou was elected in the Greek part of the island in 1988 on a promise to work for a solution, and to show himself more flexible than his predecessor, Spyros Kyprianou. His difficulty is that he not only has to bridge the deep differences between the two Cypriot communities, but also has his freedom of manoeuvre limited by the strong feelings of most Greek Cypriots on the issue.

They tend to see the issue almost solely in terms of the landing of the Turkish army in 1974, which led to the division of Cyprus and the departure of thousands of Greek Cypriot families from their homes in the north, as well as Turkish Cypriots from the south.

Few Greek Cypriots acknowledge the seriousness of the events before 1974, and the sufferings inflicted then on the Turkish Cypriots, which were among the



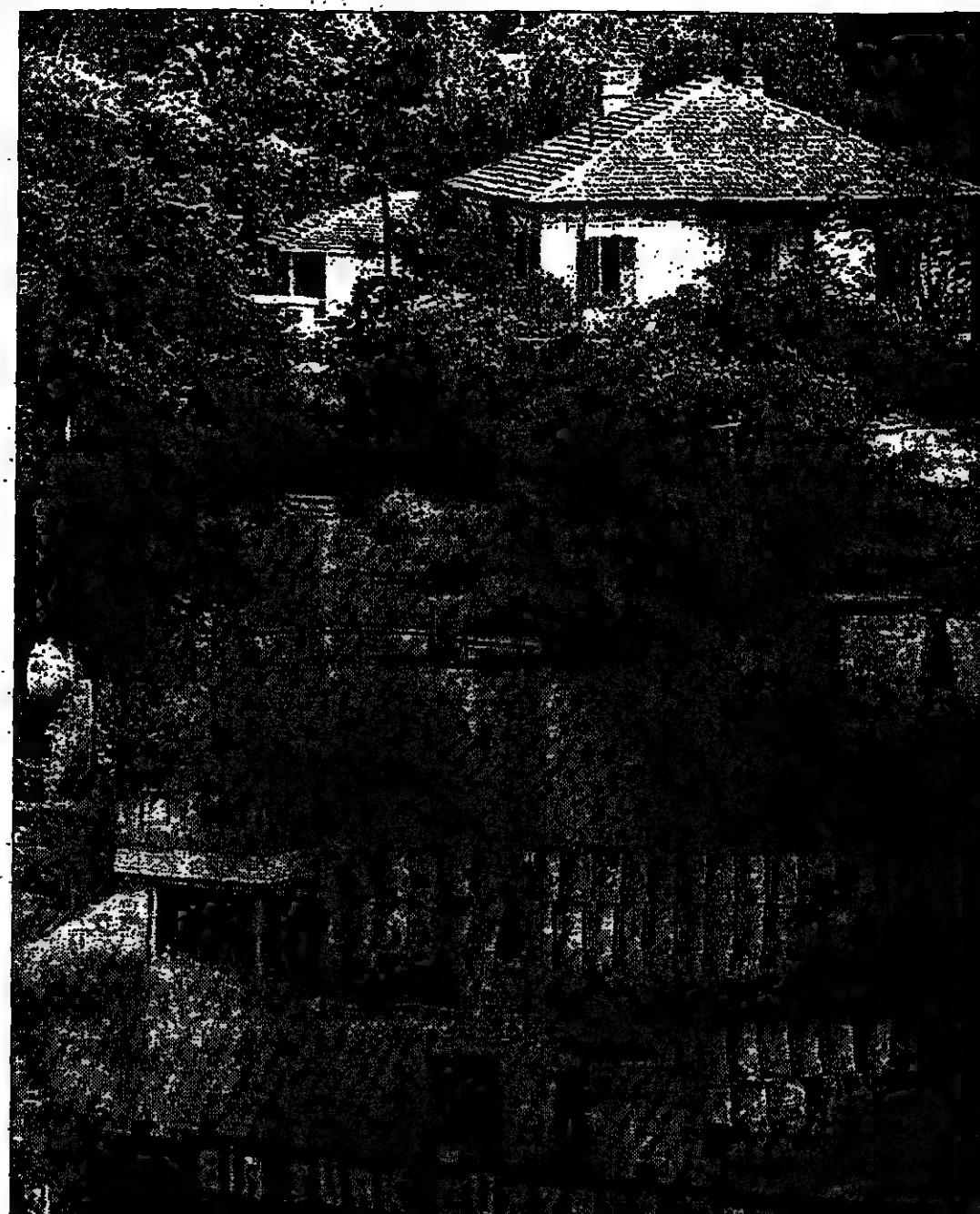
Divided: UN secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuellar, centre, brings Cyprus's two leaders, Vassiliou, left, and Denktaş, together

main causes of the Turkish intervention.

Since his election, Mr Vassiliou has made it clear that the Greek Cypriots will not be able to get everything they would like in a settlement, and that there will have to be sacrifices. The secrecy of the recent negotiations has led to accusations by some of his more outspoken opponents that he is about to sell out to the Turks, and

that he has already done so in some respects. The Turkish Cypriots, by contrast, argue that, although he presents himself as flexible, he has not in practice given up any of the fundamental objectives of the Greek Cypriots, which to them are unacceptable.

Basically, the Greek Cypriots take the view that Cyprus is a Greek island, of which they have 80 per cent of the population, and



Divided: view from the Greek side of the Turkish part of Cyprus. Thousands fled their homes and would like to reclaim them, some of which stand empty in a no man's land between the borders

that it should be united again, though they have given up the idea of union with Greece. They concede that the Turkish Cypriots should administer a northern area, smaller than the one they now control but similar to it. They insist, however, that there should be a strong central government, in which they would be the dominant partner. They demand that all the Greek

Cypriots who lost property in the north in 1974 and afterwards should have the right to return, though they argue that not all of them will in practice exercise that right, especially as those who choose not to return will be compensated. They want a sharp reduction in the number of Turkish troops in the north, and the return of Turkish settlers to the mainland. They also want to

replace the 1960 treaty of guarantee, signed at independence by Britain, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, under which Turkey intervened in 1974.

The Turkish Cypriots accept the idea of a federal government but are afraid of domination or worse, and they insist on greater control of their own area, and looser links. Rauf Denktaş, the president of the Turkish Republic of Northern

Cyprus, set up in 1983 but recognised only by Turkey, points out that there are now two functioning states in Cyprus. Since each has sovereignty in its own area, they should agree to pool certain functions on a basis of equality.

The Turkish Cypriots accept that they should hand over some territory, but are not prepared to accept the return of Greek Cypriot property-owners, which could lead to chaos in the north. Instead, they propose a system of block compensation, covering both Greek Cypriots who left the north and Turkish Cypriots from the south. They also insist on retaining the ultimate protection of the Turkish army.

It is a bitter and complex dispute, in which both sides are influenced by traumatic experiences. The Greek Cypriots remember the Turkish intervention of 1974, and many say they fear that Turkey may one day try to occupy the whole island. The Turkish Cypriots are acutely aware of what happened after 1963, when the Greek Cypriots violated the agreed constitution, and the Turkish Cypriots frequently came under attack.

Talks are continuing, with UN officials as intermediaries. The Greek Cypriots blame the failure to hold a conference last month on the Turks. George Iacovou, the Greek Cypriot foreign minister, told *The Times* that the Ankara government had gone back on an earlier undertaking to the UN to accept some of the Greek Cypriot demands, and that he was "habbergasted". Kenan Atakol, his Turkish Cypriot opposite number, commented: "Either the Greek Cypriots had wrong information from the UN, or they were dreamers."

Mr Atakol argues that there should now be direct talks between Mr Vassiliou and Mr Denktaş, rather than negotiations through the UN. The Greek Cypriots, however, maintain that Mr Denktaş is too intransigent, and their strategy is that the Ankara government, under pressure from the Americans, should force Mr Denktaş to make concessions.

"The lead has to come from Ankara," Mr Iacovou says. "They can pressure Denktaş." Since the aim is a government for a reunified Cyprus, in which Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would both have their place, the question must be whether this is a formula for future harmony.

NOW YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT CYPRUS

NOW YOU KNOW

Back in 1974 the island of Cyprus fell victim of a Turkish military invasion code name 'Atilla' - after the King of the Huns whose name had become a byword for total destruction, or the scourge of God!

A historic people and their civilisation - stretching back to early antiquity - have met with a fate, which they certainly did not merit and which also challenges the contemporary values and principles on which human relationships are based.

Numerous efforts to find a peaceful and viable solution, compatible with international law and principles, have failed due to Turkish intransigence.

It is a fact that the ideological confrontation between East and West, now no longer in existence, stilled all UN efforts to facilitate a solution. However, since the end of the cold war and the beginning of a worldwide rapprochement, the search for a solution gained new momentum. This was especially true this summer and it came as a result of the moderate and conciliatory attitude of the Government of Cyprus, which convinced the world community that the Cyprus problem is a problem that can be solved, provided the much needed political decision to solve it is taken in Ankara.

US President Bush expressed the wish to play the role of catalyst, so that a solution would become feasible in a short space of time. This was a natural development as it sprang from the President's conviction that the importance of the Cyprus issue, as an international problem, was much greater - for world peace and security - than the problem itself.

President Bush, during his visit last July, to Athens and Ankara, concerned himself with the Cyprus issue. He, thus, added momentum to the Secretary-General's efforts and opened the way for a new and most intensive phase in the search of a solution. News from Ankara appeared to be encouraging. It looked as if Ankara, at long last, was showing the necessary political will needed to lead developments to a positive conclusion, in spite of the continued opposition from their 'representative' in Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş. Unfortunately, no practical and effective dialogue was possible, as Mr Denktaş was not willing to constructively discuss the various aspects of the problem but, on the contrary, he aimed at leading developments to a deadlock.

THE 1990 FAILURE

The last time Denktaş succeeded in undermining the UN Secretary-General's efforts to start serious negotiations, was in February 1990. It took the Secretary-General more than a year to achieve an agreed basis for a high level meeting between President Vassiliou and Mr. Denktaş. The aim was to negotiate and agree upon an outline for the solution of the problem. During the process, Denktaş reacted negatively to the Secretary-General's efforts. Just before the high level meeting, he issued a 'statement of intent', in which he demanded the recognition of the Turkish Cypriots' rights to self-determination, the 'political equality' of both communities irrespective of their numbers and the curtailment of the sovereignty of the majority. He also demanded adherence to this 'statement' by the Greek Cypriots, before any high level meeting could take place.

This was ignored by the Secretary-General, following assurances from Ankara that Denktaş would be more conciliatory at a high level meeting. Upon these assurances, the Secretary-General went ahead and convened a meeting in February 1990. That meeting ended in disaster when Mr. Denktaş once again raised the issue of recognition of the minority as a 'separate people' with a separate self-determination right.

Press and Information Office, Nicosia

The Secretary-General was, therefore, obliged to refer to the Security Council for instructions. In his report to the Council, he underlines that Mr. Denktaş's efforts to introduce such new elements, 'had posed more than a semantic problem' and that 'any change in terminology could alter the conceptual framework to which all had thus far adhered'.

On the basis of this report, the Security Council in March 1990 unanimously adopted resolution 649, in which Denktaş's demands were clearly rejected and the basis for the negotiations (the UN resolutions and the Makarios - Denktaş and Kyprianou-Denktaş high level agreements) was reaffirmed.

The world community espoused resolution 649, a fact that forced the Turkish side to reappraise its position. This was also due to the fact that the EEC, in its Dublin Summit, declared that the problem must be solved on the basis of UN resolutions and the United States involved themselves in the process appointing a special Co-ordinator to assist in the UN Secretary-General's efforts.

However, this did not prevent Denktaş from continuing to demand, this time, 'sovereign' rights, for the 'illegal breakaway state', in the occupied part of Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey and condemned by the rest of the world. This negative Turkish position was confirmed at a recent meeting between the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey. Hopes were dashed yet again. The efforts by the United Nations, Britain, the United States, the EEC and others, were wasted by the Turks.

GIVE A NEW AND FINAL PUSH

It is encouraging, however, that not all hope was lost. The world has witnessed and applauded the sense of responsibility and seriousness of the Cyprus Government, on the one hand, and deplored the intransigence of the Turkish side, on the other.

The Cyprus Government is committed to continue on this path. Further more international attention, is still focused on the issue.

At a time when the vision of a new world order, shared by millions, is at stake, because of renewed ethnic conflicts, especially in Europe, a just, viable and negotiated solution to the Cyprus problem would amount to opening the way for international tranquillity and security.

The Government of Cyprus has proposed the convening of an international Conference on Cyprus. It considers that the EEC should be given a chance to intervene as its Parliamentary Assembly has recently decided. The super-power consensus on numerous international problems should find a practical manifestation, in the case of Cyprus as well, through such an international conference.

All that is needed now is the application of pressure on Ankara, so that the remaining obstacles are moved.

Britain, bound by special obligations and responsibilities towards Cyprus and its people can also help to achieve this.

It is expected that Britain as a guarantor power should act to this end. Her doing so could bring beneficial results much beyond Cyprus' boundaries.

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Back to basics: traditional life on the island is the attraction for many visitors, 700,000 of whom come from Britain

From hell to heaven

The last time the jolly and well-fed lawyer from Basingstoke stayed at the Forest Park Hotel in Platres, seven of his friends died nearby in a Greek Cypriot ambush. But it did not put him off the island.

That night, in the winter of 1957, he was shivering on guard duty outside the hotel, a conscript in the British Army, which was locked in a murderous struggle with gunmen from Eoka, the organisation fighting for union with Greece. He said the hotel, high up in the pine-clad mountains, was requisitioned as a command centre by the British.

"I was bloody terrified, but I remember I just kept thinking, 'This is the first time I have heard a nightingale sing. I want to come back here when it is all over'."

Thirty-four years later, he did come back with his wife to hear the nightingales, staying in the very room in which he was once cooped up with four other privates, "just down the corridor from where Daphne du Maurier wrote *Rebecca*".

Perhaps because it was once a colony, and most Cypriots speak English and drive on the left, Cyprus has a special fascination for the British. Nearly 700,000 came on holiday last year, outnumbering the Greek Cypriots who live there.

The Gulf war took an

In the Fifties, British soldiers fought terrorists in Cyprus. Today, despite sad memories, some are drawn back by its beauty. Michael Theodoulou reports

inevitable toll of this year's arrivals, and it will probably be the end of next year before the 1990 figure of 1,500,000 arrivals is matched again.

Not surprisingly, tourists this year are treated more hospitably than ever, particularly the wealthy ones. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) is unashamedly snobbish. It does not want lager louts from Bromley or backpackers from Berlin. The former are unpleasant; the latter do not spend enough. As a CTO handout proudly puts it, the majority of tourists in 1990 "came from the middle- to high-income classes, belonging mainly to the managerial and supervisory occupational groups".

The CTO is bravely trying to cater for these upmarket visitors, aware that it has to improve the "quality of the tourist product" to attract the sort of people who are not content to blather on the beach. Serious mistakes were made in the 1980s, a decade when the number of tourists increased fourfold, and haphazard development threat-

ened to drive away the high-class tourist Cyprus wants. Ayia Napa, on the east coast, has become an object lesson in what to avoid.

Fifteen years ago, it was a sleepy little fishing village with a picturesque Venetian monastery at its centre. Gone are the poky, whitewashed village houses, and the monks would turn in their graves if they could see their monastery now. It is surrounded by a neon-lit cluster of pubs, cafes and discotheques, and scantily clad Scandinavian tourists nightly spill out on to its courtyard to cavort with the young local men.

With its fine beaches and nightlife, Ayia Napa is a swinging party town and the tourists keep coming, but it could be a mini-Acapulco or Costa del Sol. Tough new building restrictions aim to prevent tentacles of development from strangling the last few pristine coastlines, and the CTO's marketing campaign abroad show that Cyprus has a lot

more to offer than sun, sand and sea.

The campaigns highlight the island's history, its many archaeological riches at sites such as Curium and Paphos, the treasure trove of Byzantine, Ottoman and Venetian architecture within the old walls of Nicosia, and the cool summer resorts such as Platres in the Troodos mountains, where monasteries are more common than hotels.

President George Vassiliou this year banned spring hunting, infuriating the island's powerful 50,000-strong hunting lobby, but delighting ornithologists from abroad.

Cyprus has tapped into the growing demand for green tourism. Companies such as Sherpa have begun walking tours into the Akamas peninsula north of the bustling resort of Paphos. The Akamas, named after the ancient Greek hero who stopped off on his way back from the Trojan wars to be seduced by Aphrodite, boasts many types of unique flora and fauna and is home to Lara Bay, where the rare green turtle breeds.

The peninsula has been declared a national park and villages are being tastefully restored to attract tourists who want a more genuine experience of life in Cyprus, from the rough but delicious village cuisine to earthy farm smells and the braying of donkeys.

Pride in a healthy economy

Despite the difficulties brought on by the Gulf war, Cyprus continues to enjoy economic conditions that are the envy of many of its neighbours. Only 1.8 per cent of the economically active population was unemployed during 1990, the lowest figure for many years. Inflation stood at 4.5 per cent, well below the rates seen in other European countries, although higher than in recent years.

Real growth in gross domestic product was 6 per cent in 1990 and is expected to be around 5 per cent in 1992, after falling to 1 per cent during the present year. Per capita income is estimated at £4,400 (£5,600), one of the highest in southern Europe.

The economy has, none the less, been badly affected by the decline in tourism that accompanied the Gulf war. It is expected to revive in 1992 as tourist revenues resume the upward path seen in recent years, but a widening trade gap during the first months of this year, and continuing rigidity in the island's monetary system, present significant challenges for the years ahead.

"In the short term, I am pessimistic," says Yiannos Tirkides, an economist with the Popular Bank of Cyprus. He predicts tourist revenues of £2400 million for 1991, compared with an estimated £2573 million for 1990. As a result, he expects a current account deficit of £1180 million, the biggest in recent memory. Other banks on the island are more optimistic, putting the deficit at £1330 million, while the Central Bank is expecting £1200 million to £1250 million.

Whatever the eventual figure, the Gulf crisis has exposed Cyprus's vulnerability to the disruption of its tourism industry, which accounts for about 70 per cent of net invisible receipts. Cyprus's trade balance deteriorated throughout the 1980s (with the exception of 1986), but a constant rise in invisible earnings kept current account deficits manageable and sometimes allowed a small surplus.

Tourist earnings rose by 17 per cent during 1990 as a result of an increase of foreign visitors during the first eight months of the year, and an increase in the average amount spent by each visitor. This is low compared with the increases witnessed in previous years, which often topped 20 per cent.

Cyprus is the envy of neighbours with high growth and low unemployment and inflation. Andrew Cunningham reports

The government expects that 1992 will see a return to these levels. Private-sector confidence in the long-term future of the tourist industry is evident from the fact that accommodation under construction now represents 27 per cent of the total current capacity.

Prospects for other sections of the economy are less rosy, however. Most other aspects of the invisible account have not kept pace with the growth in tourist income - increasing the dependence on tourism. More important, the trade gap has widened during 1991 as imports have increased and exports declined. A trade deficit of £700 million is expected.

European Community countries are now by far the most important export market

for Cyprus. In 1990, exports to the EC accounted for 53 per cent of total exports, which were valued at £388 million.

This is a sharp contrast with the mid-1980s, when exports to the EC and Arab countries had equal importance. EC countries also dominate Cyprus's import trade, accounting for just over half the total.

Exports to the Middle East have held up in absolute terms, however, remaining above £100 million per year. The region also remains the only one with which Cyprus has a trade surplus.

Britain is Cyprus's biggest trading partner, taking more than 25 per cent of the island's exports and providing more than 10 per cent of its imports. Greece, Lebanon and Germany are also important export markets. Japan, Ger-

many and Italy are main sources of imports.

The government continues to face the challenge of covering its fiscal deficit, budgeted at £136 million for 1991, equivalent to around 5.5 per cent of gross domestic product. The budget for 1992, introduced at the end of September, envisages a fiscal deficit of £102.3 million as a result of reduced expenditure.

The introduction of a value-added tax (VAT) is expected to have a significant impact on the government accounts, although many aspects of the tax are still under discussion. The tax is expected to be delayed by six months until July 1992, and even then it may be only partly implemented. The government wants to set VAT at about 10 per cent, while others prefer a lower rate.

The Central Bank is pushing hard for a liberalisation of the island's monetary system which includes interest and exchange-rate controls and credit restrictions.

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Sunshine base is vital link

BRITAIN'S two sovereign bases in Cyprus are striving to be part of a foreign field that is forever England. Michael Theodoulou writes. The garrisons are laid out in rows of neat little white-washed semis with red pitched roofs. Fiestas are parked in the drives and there are place names such as Biggin Hill village.

For many Cypriots driving on public roads through the bases, there is an understandable sense of culture shock, especially if they chance upon British officers playing polo while their battered wives sip Pimm's. Only the dazzling Mediterranean and the parched landscape stop the bases looking like Sandhurst.

The 4,000 servicemen there feel they are very lucky: Cyprus is a coveted sunshine posting. Clear weather makes it perfect for flight training missions. The sprawling base at Akrotiri on the island's southern coast - the largest RAF base in the world - hosts regular training detachments of Tornado bombers, Phantom fighters, ground-attack Jaguars and Nimrod surveillance planes.

Combined British headquarters is at nearby Episkopi, where the army keeps a battalion. A second battalion is posted at Dhekelia, 60 miles to the east.

The Gulf war reaffirmed the strategic importance of the bases. "As long as there's a British presence in the Gulf, we will have a part to play," says Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter, the commander-in-chief of the bases.

Their main value in the Gulf crisis was as staging and supply posts when more than 10,000 sorties were flown. RAF officials say the bases played an invaluable role, and there was "excellent cooperation" with the government of Cyprus.

After the war, the bases were involved in providing logistical support to British forces helping Iraqi Kurdish refugees. In the past, they have played a similar humanitarian role in relaying aid supplies to famine-stricken areas in Africa.



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CAREER DESIGN

Christopher Warman looks at the real value of extras to a luxury home, and detects new optimism in the commercial property market

Luxury does not always lead to profit

What does the description "luxury" house mean? All self-respecting builders, it seems, provide only luxury houses because to do otherwise might suggest they were not up to the required standard.

The word is undoubtedly over-used, but it can mean something, perhaps indicating only expense or an above-average finish, or at least a house with features not present in all houses, new or old.

An attempt to quantify the term "luxury" has been made by Ian Stewart, the director of Savills' country houses department. He prefers the word "prime" to describe the best country house property, and describes several "add-ons" that are often provided to transform a standard family house into a de luxe version.

He then lists the additions to indicate whether they will increase the value of the property. His verdict might make owners think a bit. Mr Stewart believes that a whirlpool bath (costing £10,000 plus), sauna (£3,000), private car wash (£3,000), and croquet lawn (£5,000), delightful though they may be, add nothing to the value.

Garden landscaping costing £25,000 might add £5,000 to the value. Also valued at quite a bit

less than their cost are squash court, indoor heated swimming-pool and conservatory.

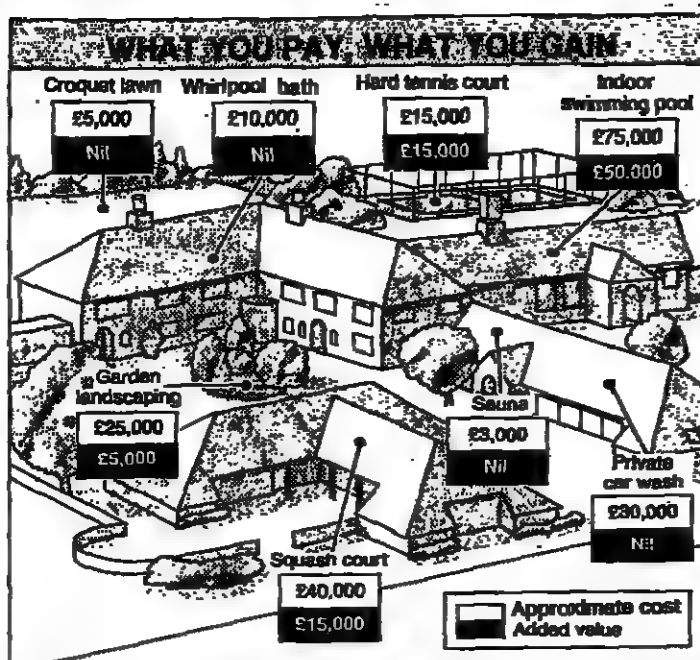
Only a hard tennis court (£15,000) is worth its price, and an outdoor swimming-pool, pond and security system nearly pay for themselves, according to the Stewart analysis.

The net result, for a £500,000 standard family house, is that the extra cost of £358,000 brings an added value of only £183,000, giving the house a value of £683,000.

Mr Stewart eases the pain by adding a 10 per cent premium because the property is in such prime condition, filled with all the extra amenities that anybody could want.

A feature of modern developments not on the Stewart luxury list but increasingly sought is security, which is emphasised in the latest scheme by Octagon Developments. Electronically controlled entrance gates linked by a videophone system, as well as burglar alarms, are fitted to the five houses, which are in Esher, Surrey. Each has five bedrooms and five reception rooms, drawing room, dining room and study, with a playroom and TV den.

They are priced from £745,000 to £795,000, and the gardens are landscaped. Octagon believes



that there are people who are still able to afford, and will want, "quality new-built homes". Details are available on 0372 470607.

Lea House, at Bishop's Cleeve in south Devon, was built in 1981, and has several add-ons. South-facing for views over the Teign estuary, the house has three reception rooms, a billiard room and five bedrooms.

Included within the 3.8-acre landscaped gardens are a croquet lawn, a heated swimming-pool, with space for a sauna or whirlpool bath, a grass tennis court, an area laid out for a hard court, a loose box and tackroom, and garaging for eight cars. Thus the buyer will immediately make a saving by not having to provide the luxury items, and the price, through Jackson-Stops & Staff's Essex office, is about £525,000.

The description "luxury" would apply loosely to most of the properties sold through Knight Frank & Rutley. The firm uses the term "quite stunning" for Pinedale, a Mediterranean-style property built on St George's Hill estate at Weybridge, Surrey. The house, in 1.5 acres, has accommodation of about 11,000 sq ft, which gives it more space than houses to be built there because of a new planning guideline restricting space to 4,000 sq ft an acre.

The buyer will probably not be too concerned about the precise value of the leisure complex that comes with the five reception rooms and five bedrooms. This includes pool, whirlpool bath and sauna, triple garaging, a huge room that could be a studio, cinema, gymnasium or snooker room, and landscaped gardens with pond. The price is about £1.5 million - reduced from £1.7 million.

Is a slow fragile recovery starting?

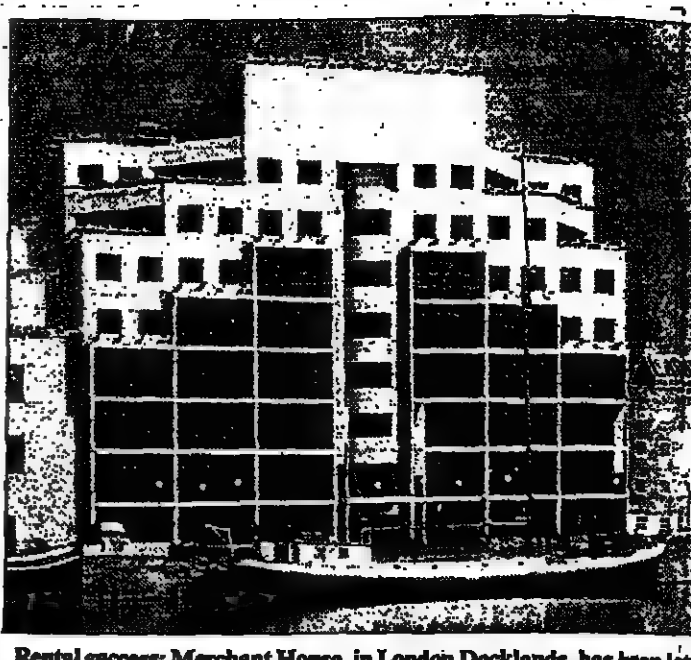
There are often as many opinions on the property market as the number of agents who offer them, but an outbreak of agreement about the present state of the business suggests a consistency in the signs they detect.

The result is a cautious indication of an upturn, marked by headlines such as "Is there light at the end of the tunnel?" in the latest reports.

Healey & Baker says in its quarterly investment report that investment values have started to rise. Paul Orchard-Lisle, a senior partner, says that investors believe they are seeing the first signs of an end to the recession and are prepared to invest.

He acknowledges that although investors may be more optimistic, little good news is coming out of the letting market, nor is the position likely to improve until interest rates fall further. Healey & Baker's conclusion is that recovery will be slow and fragile.

In its city offices quarterly report, Knight Frank & Rutley says that despite a sluggish second quarter for office take-up, there has been an upturn in investment transactions, with £326 million of properties being traded, an increase of 140 per cent since the previous quarter. Knight Frank &



Rental success: Merchant House, in London Docklands, has been let

Rutley says the attractive yields on offer in the City are drawing the more aggressive institutions to the market.

The main obstacle to any significant recovery in rents is the oversupply of offices, which is putting pressure on rental levels even in the traditional core area of the City. The reduction in recent development, however, means that new accommodation is tailing off, offering a glimmer of hope that demand will start soon to erode the plentiful present supply.

Evidence that the office sector is in an unhappy state is confirmed in Hillier Parker's all-property quarterly index, which shows a 3.7 per cent drop from its May level.

Greg Nicholson, the investment partner at Hillier Parker, says that industrialists are the clear winner at present, showing the first positive overall three-monthly returns since the end of 1989. Richard

Saunders & Partners reports a "sign of the times" with the news that the completion of St Martin's House refurbishment of 59,000 sq ft in St Martin's Le Grand, in the City of London, has been postponed from spring 1992 to the middle of 1993. On the other hand, 30,000 sq ft at New Broad Street House, in the City, came under offer at an estimated £48 a sq ft.

MEPC has announced its first letting at Alban Gate, its landmark scheme at London Wall, to a law firm at a rent of £45 a sq ft for the 40,000 sq ft, together with a rent-free package in line with market conditions. At Merchant House, part of the City Harbour scheme in London Docklands, where rents have suffered badly, the Associated Publishing Group has taken 7,341 sq ft for about £15 a sq ft, through Jones Lang Wootton and Chemtorn.

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Eddery to ride Toulon in quest for his fifth Arc

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

TOULON, winner of the St Leger, will run in the Ciga Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on Sunday and will be ridden by Pat Eddery who is seeking an unprecedented fifth victory in the race.

Quest For Fame is also in the line-up for Europe's premier middle distance contest, giving Khaled Abdulla a double chance of winning a double Rainbow Quest in 1985 and Dancing Brave a year later.

The prevailing soft ground at the Paris track looks certain to suit both runners. Eddery's other Arc winners were Detroit and Tremolino.

Yesterday's announcement means seven classic winners will contest Sunday's race, making it one of the great Arcs of modern times. In addition to the Abdulla pair, the other five are Generous, Suave Dancer, Snurge, In The Groove and Jet Ski Lady.

Twenty-five remained in the chase for the £500,000 first prize after yesterday's forfeit stage with a probable final

line-up of about 18. Andre Fabre was cautiously optimistic yesterday about Toulon's chances after watching the Top Ville colt work impressively over ten furlongs the previous day. "He will run well," he said.

Walter Swinburn is likely to ride Quest For Fame who worked over a mile and a quarter with Green's Femeley yesterday.

Roger Charlton, trainer of last year's Derby winner, said: "I don't think I can have him any better. I will be delighted if he reaches the frame and if

he finishes in the first five he will have run well."

"The ground and trip will suit him. He has only run one rather muddling race over a mile and a half this year and the horse is crying out for the trip."

Toulon, available at 14-1 yesterday morning, was swiftly trimmed to 10-1 by Corals following the news that Eddery would ride. Ladbrokes offer 12-1 while Quest For Fame is generally 20-1.

Suave Dancer, who completes his Arc preparation this morning accompanied by Cash Amussen over five furlongs at Chantilly, was pushed out by Ladbrokes from 5-2 to 3-1 because of the soft going. Generous remains the firm 11-10 favourite.

Confirmation that Toulon runs means that Fabre will be three-handed in the race with Pigeon-Voyageur (Alain Lequeux) and Subotica (Thierry Jarnet) his other contenders.

Two British colts unexpectedly left in yesterday were Paul Kelleway's Hundra and the Denys Smith-trained Karinga Bay.

Corals' latest prices: 11-10 Generous, 3-1 Suave Dancer (from 11-4), 8-1 Snurge (from 7-1), 10-1 Toulon, 12-1 Pistolet Bleu, 20-1 bar.



Hills: seeking his second consecutive Cambridgehire

Gamble on Troupe gathers pace

A WHOLESALE Cambridgehire gamble on Troupe developed yesterday as betting gathered momentum on the first leg of the autumn double (Phil McLennan writes).

Available at 14-1 with leading bookmakers yesterday morning, Troupe was cut through all rates to 8-1 with William Hill and 10-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes.

Troupe represents the owner-trainer combination of Robert Sangster and Barry Hills, successful with the heavily-backed favourite Risen Moon 12 months ago.

The Sadler's Wells colt is set to carry only 8st 2lb and will be ridden by man-of-the-moment Willie Carson.

Other horses well-backed with Corals yesterday were Melotte, now 0-1 (from 12-1) and Democratic (16-1 from 25-1). Palatial Style remains 7-1 favourite.

Ladbrokes' latest prices are 6-1 Palatial Style, 10-1 Melotte, Troupe, 12-1 bar.

Gilderdale, trained by John Hills, misses the race after a training setback.

Ladbrokes are to introduce automatic bet-setting technology into their shops within the next 18 months. A computer-based bet-capture system will gradually be brought in and 100 shops are expected to be operating the system within six months.

Five for Carson on lucky course

WILLIE Carson was the toast of Tyneside for the second time in just over a year after riding a magnificent five-timer at windy Newcastle yesterday.

He reeled off wins in the first five races on Assaf (3-1), Perjury (3-4), Lord Oberon (6-1), Subotica (6-4) and Natch (11-8) at accumulative odds of more than 539-1.

Fifteen months ago the former champion jockey thrilled the Gosforth Park crowd with six winners from seven rides at the important Northumberland Plate meeting.

"The wind was pretty bad out there but I rate Newcastle one of my lucky courses," smiled Carson after completing his nap hand and bringing his season's tally to 128.

The ever-consistent Carson, aged 49, was seen at his best on Subotica in the Newcastle University 1st Club Handicap.

The favourite was under pressure a long way from home in the two-mile contest but Carson never gave up and his persistence paid off as Subotica wore down Apache Prince to forge clear for a five-length victory.

Assaf initiated the Carson spree when scrambling home by a neck in the Princess Maiden Stakes.

Hamdan Al-Maktoum's colt made much of the running into the teeth of the gale and was coming to the end of his tether inside the final furlong but just held on to win by a neck from Goldsmith's Hall, the 7-4 favourite.

Newcastle

Going: firm
2.00 (1m) 1. AASFF (W Carson, 3-1), 2. Golden Clap (W Carson, 7-4 fav), 3. Sward Master (V Smith, 3-1), ALSO RAN: 10. Astor Flyer (4m), 20. Premier Boyer (5m), 25. Tidy (5m), 35. 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THE TIMES SPORT

Fine tuning goes into World Cup opener

Wyllie is wary of England's power up front

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Twickenham resounded to the sounds of pomp and ceremony yesterday and children paraded, and stood, and paraded again for the rehearsal of the opening ceremony of rugby union's second World Cup, the players who will open the tournament tomorrow did likewise — with rather less ceremony.

England, one of the five host nations, and their opponents, New Zealand, adopted different modes in training: the English went private on the Harlequins ground while, down the road at London Irish, another large gathering of enthusiasts watched the All Blacks run through their drills and awarded them a spattering of applause as they concluded with a heavy assault on the tackle bags.

Alex Wyllie, the New Zealand coach, is aware of the problems England will set his players: he spent much of the 1989-90 season in Britain, first with the All Blacks who toured Wales and Ireland in 1989, then assisting Coventry in the second half of the season.

What he is less certain about is whether England will come out in 1991 five nations clothing or the more exciting attire they tried to fashion on tour in Australia.

"Obviously you look at the opposition strong points but you have to concentrate on what sort of game you want to play yourself," Wyllie, a



Who will be the teams and the men of the Rugby World Cup? Tomorrow, *The Times* presents a special 16-page colour supplement with the best and most authoritative guide to a month of action.

strictly no-nonsense Canterbury and New Zealand flanker in his playing days, said, "England have placed a lot on the lineout, for example, but we have never really failed in that area, on our own throw. We did get a bit untidy in the first game against Australia in August but we worked on that and did much better in the second game."

"England have a strong scrum and have made sure they have the set pieces tied up. We may lack a bit there, in some ways, but we make up with mobility around the field and maybe that is where we can beat them. That's where Australia beat them."

"But what England have done is stick with the same players and shown they have confidence in them — and that allows the players to develop confidence in their own abil-

ity, even though the Australians may have burst that bubble a bit."

However, Wyllie does not necessarily concur with the England view that the same 15 players may be required in pool games. "It's a big risk going through without using some of your players. You might get through the first three or four games and then find an injury forces you to pull in someone else for a semi-final, someone who might not have played for three or four weeks."

There are few better countries than New Zealand ("We have a lot of selectors and coaches on the sidelines," Wyllie said wryly, remembering some of the caustic criticism he has received himself) at analysing the strengths and weaknesses of opponents, at neutralising the former and magnifying the latter.

However, Wyllie believes that England, apart from their set-piece strengths, also receive good direction from half back. "Having said that, I believe we have the ability to change our game if required."

"When I was in Coventry I saw some of the five nations games and I wondered whether, 18 months before the tournament, England's players would keep going through to the World Cup." The answer to that will become apparent around 4.30pm tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Ireland were added yesterday to the countries who have signed the participation agreement for the World Cup. The delay, until two days before the tournament begins, was caused by the Irish players seeking clarification on three points which, in the light of the International Rugby Football Board's own amendments, might have appeared unduly restrictive.

However, after a meeting between senior players and their management on Monday evening, any difficulties were resolved — at least for the period of the tournament.

□ Bath have called off their home game with Newport on Saturday, saying they cannot raise a side because of World Cup commitments.

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Scotland team, page 38



On the burst: John Kirwan, the New Zealand wing, paces himself in training yesterday

Lazio officials want update on Gascoigne

THE president and team manager of Lazio are expected to travel to London tomorrow in an effort to clear fresh doubts over the transfer of Paul Gascoigne from Tottenham Hotspur. Gascoigne underwent surgery at the weekend to repair a transverse fracture of his right kneecap sustained in a nightclub incident in Newcastle, and Lazio want assurances that Gascoigne is going to be fit to join the club in time for the start of next season.

Giuseppe Calleri, the Lazio president, and Carlo Regalia, the manager, have already seen medical reports that followed the operation on the same knee Gascoigne injured in the FA Cup final in May, but both want more information on the injury.

Regalia yesterday dismissed reports that Gascoigne's £5.5 million move from Tottenham to Italy had been shelved as a result of the operation. "For now, there's nothing to talk about [with Tottenham]," he said in Rome. "Everything depends on the medical on May 30."

"If Gascoigne is fully fit and OK on that day, then he will become a Lazio player." The transfer hinges on a medical examination on May 30, and would fall through if that provides an unsatisfactory assessment of his condition.

Howard Kendall, the manager of Everton, is considering whether to renew his interest in the Real Madrid midfielder, Gheorghe Hagi. Kendall moved for the Romanian international, valued at almost £2 million by Real, at the end of last season, but the deal fell through.

Now Madrid seem willing to release Hagi, but Kendall said: "I have to consider whether he is the type of player who could fit in the present team set-up after signing Peter Beardsley."

Everton paid Liverpool £1 million for Beardsley, but Kendall's priority has been someone to lead the front-line. Manchester City are considering signing the Soviet international forward, Igor

Korniyev. After Korniyev, aged 24, plays for CSKA Moscow against AS Roma in the European Cup Winners' Cup tonight, he will fly to Manchester and spend a week on trial at Maine Road.

The French first division club, St Etienne, is ready to make another bid for Liverpool's Israeli international forward, Ronny Rosenthal. Liverpool last week turned down a £700,000 offer for the player.

However, the St Etienne coach, Christian Serra, said yesterday: "He is the ideal player for us and I hope we can reach an agreement."

Stade de Reims, the French club, which lost two European Cup finals to Real Madrid in 1956 and 1959, is to fold with debts of £4 million. The club, French champions six times, filed for bankruptcy yesterday, three months after being relegated to the third division by the French federation for unpaid debts.

Sheffield United have received £1.35 million from the Football Trust towards the cost of converting the Kop at Bramall Lane into an all-seater stand.

The injured Manchester City forward, Niall Quinn, has been named in a 22-strong Republic of Ireland squad for the crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland in Poznan on October 16.

Quinn damaged a knee against Oldham Athletic on Saturday and club reports suggest that he will be out of action for at least three weeks.

There is no place, though, for the Liverpool captain, Ronnie Whelan, who also has a knee injury and has been out of action for his club since August 31.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD: P. Breen (Goal), G. Poyton (Everton), C. Morris (Colchester), C. Hughton (Preston), S. Sharkey (Aston Villa), D. Irwin (Manchester United), J. Pugh (Wimbledon), M. McCarthy (Colchester), D. O'Leary (Aston), R. Morris (Blackburn), P. McGrath (Aston Villa), R. Hughton (Liverpool), A. Townsend (Colchester), A. McCoshin (Preston), K. Sherry (Everton), R. Keane (Wimbledon), J. Byrne (Brighton), D. Kelly (Leicester), J. Alderton (Derby), A. McCoshin (Colchester), S. O'Brien (Manchester City).

Soviets face test of faith at Ibrox

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RANGERS brought Oleg Kuznetsov and Alexei Mikhailichenko to Glasgow with the principal aim of guiding Scotland's biggest and richest club to success and silverware in Europe. Their undoubted class and experience were seen as the extra ingredients the Scottish champions needed, and had previously missed, when bridging the gap between the domestic and continental competition.

Tonight at Ibrox, the two Soviet internationals must show that they can provide an extra edge for Rangers in Europe, repaying the faith and the £3.5 million invested in them by overturning a one-goal deficit against Sparta Prague, the Czechoslovak champions. They will not be helped by their relative unfamiliarity with the rest of the Rangers team.

Kuznetsov and Mikhailichenko have only played together in one of the club's 14 matches so far this season, both falling victim to injuries early on in the campaign and then playing on the international stage for the Soviet Union when returned to fitness. It was even doubtful that both would face Sparta until Mark Hateley, an Englishman, injured his neck at the weekend.

Had Hateley been fit, the Rangers manager, Walter Smith, would have faced an awkward choice of perming five overseas players for four available places. Hateley's absence means Kuznetsov and Mikhailichenko are likely to line up alongside the English pair, Nigel Spackman and Gary Stevens.

Smith, wary of giving too much away to his visitors, was not prepared to confirm as such yesterday, but he did say: "This will be a typically European-style of game and their experience of European competition will help in the situation we are facing."

Strangely, perhaps, Kuznetsov and Mikhailichenko have been involved in a similar situation before at Ibrox. Four years ago, they were in the highly-rated Dynamo Kiev team that came to Rangers to

protect a 1-0 lead in the European Cup only to lose 2-0 on the night and 2-1 on aggregate.

"That is the level of performance we must try to achieve again," Smith said. "We have to try to win by two goals but not give one away. It is always an awkward problem to have at home. In the past, we have been caught out by losing goals to Cologne and Steaua Bucharest in second legs of European ties at Ibrox."

Although Ally McCoist has made a timely return to fitness from an ankle injury, Ian Ferguson and Richard Gough are both missing, leaving Spackman with the captaincy and the responsibility of steering Rangers into the next round.

If skill is to be Rangers' greatest weapon tonight, traditional Scottish fighting spirit is likely to be Motherwell's as they seek to overturn a 2-0 deficit from their European Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg against GKS Katowice. The Motherwell manager, Tommy McLean, said his team will prepare a warm welcome in their home leg against the Polish club-holders.

"I am prepared to forego nice pretty patterns if we can put the opposition under threat straight away," McLean said. "A lot of foreigners come to Scotland and 'flap' a bit. Katowice have a few youngsters in their side and we have to test them and see if they can handle it."

The midfield player, Ian Angus, who scored one of the goals in the Scottish Cup final which earned Motherwell a place in Europe, is suffering from an Achilles tendon problem and is unlikely to play.

Gordon Wallace last night resigned as manager of Dundee, just hours before their Centenary Cup tie against Ayr United at Dens Park. The club's board accepted his resignation with immediate effect, and his assistant, John Blackley, took charge of the side for the tie between last season's finalists.

Official rejects ban calls

Lagos — A leading Nigerian boxing official dismissed calls for a ban on the sport on Tuesday after a flyweight boxer died from injuries.

"Boxing should not be seen as a killer sport. A boxer who dies in the course of his career is destined to die like that," Emmanuel Adeleye, the Nigerian Boxing Board of Control secretary, was quoted as saying by the News Agency of Nigeria.

Nojima Gbadegesin, aged 27, died in a Lagos hospital on Sunday, two days after being knocked down in the sixth round of a supporting bout. It was his second professional bout. Doctors said Gbadegesin, the second Nigerian in nine years to die in boxing, had suffered brain damage.

Calls for a ban were also heard last week after Michael Watson, the London super-middleweight, collapsed at the end of a World Boxing Organisation (WBO) bout at White Hart Lane.

Watson, aged 26, was still in a coma on a life support system yesterday.

France opts out of clay

Paris — France, which in 1982 chose a clay court to try to beat United States, has now opted for a synthetic surface to take on Andre Agassi and Jim Courier in the Davis Cup tennis final.

Agassi beat Courier in the French Open final in June and inspired the Americans to their semi-final win over Germany on a clay court in Kansas City a fortnight ago. Meanwhile, the French No. 1, Guy Forget, has had a miserable year on clay and is a lot better on Supreme Court, the surface picked for the November 29 to December 1 final in Lyon. (AFP)

South Africa confident of World Cup appearance

By RICHARD STREETON

A DECISION on whether South Africa will be allowed to take part in the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand from February 22 to March 25 will probably be made known by the International Cricket Council (ICC) towards the end of next week.

Colin Cowdrey, the ICC chairman, on whom the final onus will rest, saw little point yesterday in commenting on West Indian opposition to inviting the Springboks to compete.

"I do not wish to make a comment just at the moment," he said. "I am still taking soundings with the other countries." Cowdrey said their views could continue to reach London right through next weekend.

In Cape Town, Ali Bacher, the managing director of the newly-formed United Cricket Board of South Africa, was unperturbed by the Caribbean attitude to South Africa. "All I

want to say is that I remain quietly confident that our national cricket team will be playing in the World Cup," he said.

Yesterday marked the official lifting of the moratorium imposed by the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African National Sports Congress on international cricket contact with South Africa. Three times recently in public speeches, Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, has stressed that Bacher's United Board have met all the requirements that had been stipulated.

Sources close to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control said the board's annual meeting in Bridgetown agreed on Monday that it would be premature for South Africa to compete in Australasia. West Indies were the only full member not in favour of South Africa's readmission to

the ICC at its meeting in London last July.

The West Indian delegates argued that South Africa's readmission was rushed through too quickly. They abstained from voting and their continuing reluctance to make any concessions was predictable. Pakistan have already said that they are also against South Africa's participation in the World Cup.

Like West Indies, though, they are unlikely to refuse to play in the competition themselves if the South Africans are invited. Their protests will almost certainly be limited to expressing their disapproval of South Africa's presence.

Cowdrey will face a tricky decision when he finally has available the reactions of the seven Test playing countries. Zimbabwe, the eighth entrant, is an associate ICC member and does not hold full voting powers.

Tufnell swells a memorial fund

PHIL Tufnell, the England left-arm spinner, disputes he was a rebel in the first place (Richard Streeton writes). His new, reformed behavioural pattern in the eyes of everyone else, though, was again seen yesterday at a function at Lord's when he handed over half his earnings from a sponsorship deal.

The money was given to the memorial fund for Wilf Slack, the former Middlesex player, who died in 1989. It will be used to develop facilities for young cricketers at the Smithfield ground, north London. "All right the ponytail and the earrings I used to wear have

gone," Tufnell said, "simply because they seemed to upset other people. It mattered to them and made no difference to me. I am still the same person."

"Maybe I was immature when I began but I have never wavered from my determination to excel for Middlesex and England." With 88 wickets this season, Tufnell has proved himself the country's leading spin bowler.

Tufnell earned £2,395 from sponsorship by Estate and Marketing Publications who paid him varying amounts for wickets and catches he took in 1991.



Tufnell: shared reward

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